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Newsletter 47

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett, Jonathan del Arco, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Michael Dorn, Alexander Siddig, Robert Tostman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okada, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi. Welcome to another newsletter.

Thank you for all the letters telling us how much you have enjoyed the club and regret its club closing. We are also very grateful that so many of you were willing to donate your refund to club funds, and/or sent donations. We would like to thank you all. We would particularly like to mention honorary member Lorraine Kelly, who sent us a very nice letter and a generous donation for the funds.

The club accounts are looking a bit healthier now but as we are still waiting to hear from 140 members what they want us to do with their refund we don't know what the final position will be. The raffle was a great success and brought in £240, and we are hoping that the raffle in this newsletter will bring in over £200. At Contagion we decided to have a go with a tombola rather than a raffle and at the time of writing we are hoping that this will do well. It would really be nice if we could close IDIC's funds in the black and be able to donate money to the IDIC Guide Dog Fund, which currently stands at nearly £1000.

Two or three people have indicated that they would be interested in starting a letterzine or something similar if they could get help. You'll see their comments in the newsletter. If we hear further from them in the next two months, we'll give you details.

RENEWALS - If there is a renewal form with this newsletter and you want to receive the final one your renewal *must* reach Janet by September 11th as we will only be printing the number of newsletters we need.

REFUNDS - If you are due a refund and still haven't sent in your form indicating what you want us to do with it, please return it to Janet as soon as possible. If you've mislaid the form, just write, but *please* do answer. If you need a reply, please remember to enclose a SAE.

To remind you, the options are to receive your refund with the next newsletter; to use it as credit for the raffle or zines; to donate your refund to club funds on the understanding that any money left over when the accounts are closed will go to the IDIC Guide Dog Fund.

CREDIT - If you have requested credit and not used it yet, we have a note of this. Just tell Sheila or Janet when you want to use it.

BADGES - Thanks to everyone who bought badges. We are now sold out.

ZINES - Postage costs went up on July 8th; envelope prices also went up recently and between the two, we've had no alternative but to increase zine prices. These have unfortunately had to go up by 5p a zine with this newsletter.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please don't stop sending in letters and articles as we do need them for the final newsletter. Let's try to make it a nice positive one celebrating Star Trek's 30th Anniversary. The closing date for the final newsletter is September 11th.

PLEASE put your **full name** on **all** submissions (**including individual disc files**) - if you don't and they get separated from your letter then we can't print them.

Email - send to Janet and she will try to confirm receipt within 2 weeks. (**please note new email address although old one remains active**)
(Email - janetq@post.almac.co.uk)

Computer disc - send to Janet. ASCII text files on MS-DOS, Atari ST, Acorn or Amstrad PCW - SAE to Janet for details. Please indicate *italics* by enclosing the text in < > and **bold** by enclosing it in [] (square brackets).

By letter or fax - send anything to be typed up for the newsletter to Sheila. Send news & cuttings to Janet.

Cartoons - We now have more than we can use. Thanks to those who have sent them in.

Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH.

Our thanks to Lynne Baxter, Peter Carmody, George Haggarty, Michael Hill, Fiona

McDonald, Gloria Rigg, Linda Ware and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

The list of secondhand books and zines for the guide dog appeal is continually being updated - SAE to Sheila for a list.

USED STAMPS

Sheila took 10 kilos of stamps to Fortar around the time the last N/L went out. Most of this came from Warp Two. She will probably be taking more stamps in after Contagion.

Any American/Canadian members who would like to contribute used stamps can send them to Bill Hupe, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554, USA and he will forward them to us along with a list of your names so that we can acknowledge them.

We would like to thank Dianne Abbott, Frances Abernethy, Sandra de la Cruz Alvarez, Bruno Azzara, Stephen Barnett, Elizabeth Barrie, Alistair Beckett, Jennifer Blanchard, Allie Brightwell, Diane Burch, Miss E Butler, Helen Cakebread, Alan T Callaby, Catherine Carter, Susan Clarke, Michaela Cook, E D Davies, Veronica Duthie, Thomas Earp, Julie Evans, Judith Farrow, Jane Fenn, Anne-Marie Flowers, Sarah Finch, Mark French, Antje Freudenberg, Vered Gilad, Kathleen Glancy, Ena Glogowska, Elena S Guasch, David Hall, Susan Hamilton, Alan Hardy, Martin Hellsdon, Linda Hepden, Valerie Herd, Catherine Hill, David Houston, Bill Hupe, John Hurles, Gary McClean, Carol Kean, Kimba, MediaWest*Con attendees, Gill Marks, Rebecca Morris, Willie Morrison, James O'Donovan, Lorna Price, Taruka Quauhtezcatl, Pamela, Alan & Amanda Ricot, Allison Rooney, Stephen Rothwell, Moira Russell, Neil Safi, Elaine Sheard, Marion Stamatu, Yvonne Topp, R J Timms, Jenny Turner, Teresa Tyler, Olga Fernandez Del Val, Ann Verschueren, Jill Wadsley, Dorothy Wallace, Jason Walton, Moira Warburton, Linda Ware, Celia Wenban-Smith, Sharon Wenzel, Daniel van der Wiele, Edward Woo, James Woodman and anyone

we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We will be continuing to collect stamps after the club closes. We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please

trim them, leaving 1/4" of envelope around the stamp.

We plan to post the next newsletter out around 2nd October.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 7/7/96



CLUB DRAW IN AID OF CLUB FUNDS

Congratulations to Stephen Daniels who won both seasons of DS9 CIC videos. We think this is the first time that one person has won both prizes in the raffle but Stephen certainly increased his odds by the number of tickets he bought!

The raffle brought in £240; many thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

This time we are raffling a Franklin Mint pewter Enterprise (original series) worth £195, donated by Janet who prefers her die-cast model, on the condition that the raffle raises at least £200. We enclose two tickets, price £2.00 each. If you want extra entries just send the money and we will make the tickets out for you.

Important - Please send money for the draw on a separate cheque or postal order so that it can be returned to you easily with next newsletter if we have to cancel the draw.

Send the tickets and money to Janet or Sheila by September 11th, 1996. The winner will be given in the next newsletter.



compiled by Janet Quarton

TV & SATELLITE

- BBC2 will be having a Star Trek day on August 26th to celebrate Star Trek's 30th birthday. They will show TOS episodes and new interviews with the original actors. There will also be general Trek "things". On the same evening there will be a behind the scenes show on Voyager and the network premiere of "The Caretaker"

The BBC was in Los Angeles filming footage for their 30th Trek Anniversary Special. Some of the segments included: a skit of Trek fans dressed in uniform touring the Hollywood in a car, a fan being interviewed at her home

regarding her home, and a Klingon fan club doing a skit of attacking a Starfleet officer in a (Starfleet) bar.

- Star Trek Voyager is coming to BBC2 in November 1996. It was announced at the end of "All Good Things"

- On TV we seem now to have a Star Trek famine. TNG finished on BBC2 on 19th June with All Good Things, and on Sky One on 1st June to be replaced with Quantum Leap. DS9 finished for a break on BBC 2 on 30th May, leaving no Star Trek on BBC. Sky One has Classic Trek and 4th Season DS9 on

Sundays.

BBC - screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
TNG		
7th Season		
271 Genesis		15/05/96
272 Journey's End		22/05/96
273 Firstborn		29/05/96
274 Bloodlines		05/06/96
275 Emergence		12/06/96
276 Pre-Emptive Strike		17/06/96
277 All Good Things		19/06/96

DS9

2nd Season		
435 Paradise		16/05/96
436 Shadow Play		23/05/96
437 Playing God		30/05/96

STAR TREK VOYAGER

• Voyager was renewed for another season, but UPN will be moving the show to Wednesdays at 9pm Eastern time. UPN president Lucie Salhany commented that the network expected Voyager to do better in its new slot by picking up more of its core "young adult" audience, and by moving away from competing with Monday night football games.

UPN cancelled everything (including Jonathan Frakes' "Paranormal Borderline" except Voyager, Sentinel, and "Moesha."

• From Kate Mulgrew at the Orlando convention:

The Kazon will be gone next season, but the "best bad guys yet" will replace them, and she hopes that Seska will return in another part. There will be another baby in the crew. She does not want to explore the Janeway/Chakotay relationship, and she does want to do another Q/Janeway episode, but that seemed to be her opinion only. Also, the episode "Sacred Ground" next season will feature Robert Duncan McNeil (Tom Paris) directing, four older actors (75-80 years) guest starring, and it will be an exploration of Janeway's spirit guide/life. The episode

"Flashback", he says is a great episode, with "lots of action".

From John Ordovery, Pocket Books on AOL: Jeri Taylor has asked me to let people know that there is a sea change coming in Voyager. The show is going to lighten up. The crew is over its separation anxiety the Kazon, Vidlians, Seska

- All of that is being left behind. Jeri said to me, it never made sense. How were they keeping up with Voyager? It made them seem like they were staying in once place, going in circles So now, the Voyager's mission is this: See what's over that next hill; don't take crap from nobody; help out where they can along the way. The characters are changing too. Neelix will be returning to the way he was supposed to be in the bible, an Errol Flynn type who just happens to be short and funny-looking and have a squeaky voice, but he can out right the sheriff's men with half a sword and one arm tied behind his back and so on. Tom Paris will be back to the charming rogue persona etc. Janeway will be more like Kirk than Picard."

• Robert Duncan McNeill will be directing the third season episode "Sacred Ground."

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

• The June/July issue of Star Trek: Communicator reports that the 30th anniversary Deep Space Nine episode was still "a little" up in the air and will air one week before the 5th season starts. The Communicator also reports that Ira S. Behr, the executive producer of Deep Space Nine, said that there will be major changes in 2 starring characters in season 5, and that the first 10 episodes of the 5th season will be presented unlike any Star Trek episode in the past. DS9's 100th episode will air on its second week in the fall.

• At Creation's Grand Slam con, DS9 producer Ira Steven Behr referred to "To the Death" as the first ST episode censored for violence. Overkill on Jem'Hadar by Dax was

given as the reason.

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.
Season 3 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Prod Num	Title
08/06/96	97 497	Body Parts
17/06/96	98 498	Broken Link (Season Finale)

September 29: 5TH SEASON PREMIERE

EPISODE SPOILERS

497 Body Parts - Directed by: Avery Brooks. Teleplay by: Hans Beimler, Story by: Louis P. DeSantis & Robert J. Bolivar. Guests: Rosalind Chao as Keiko; Max Grodenchik as Rom; Hana Hatae as Molly; Special Guest Star Andrew Robinson as Garak.

Misdiagnosed with a terminal disease, Quark sells his body parts on the Ferengi market to pay off his debts, then finds himself unable to break the contract.

498 Broken Link (Season Finale) - Directed by: Les Landau, Teleplay by Robert Hewitt Wolfe & Ira Steven Behr. Story by George A. Brozak. Guests: Salome Jens as Female Shapeshifter, Robert O'Reilly as Gowron, Jill Jacobson as Aroya, Leslie Bevis as Freighter Captain; Special Guest Star Andrew Robinson as Garak.

Odo is forced to return to the homeworld of his people and face judgment for killing one of his own.

STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT

• "First Contact opens in December, trailers start in July." According to an announcement made at Page's Bar the UK screening of First Contact will be the week beginning 9th December - just two weeks after it premieres in the States.

• Star Trek: First Contact Updates from Dateline: Starfleet

During an interview on "Today," Michael revealed that the last new DS9 episode before the movie's release would deal with getting Worf off of DS9 to go be in the movie.

Add to the cast list notes Alice Krige as the "Borg Queen."

According to Playmates (who are already getting ready to market it), the movie will show us the Phoenix Rocket, the first warp-drive equipped ship

Sony Theatres, who had been tentatively listing the movie's release date as November 22, have now changed the still-tentative date to November 27.

The first trailer (more like an appetite-wheter) for First Contact appeared in theatres in late May. It simply featured a Borg ship and the caption "The Borg is back November 22nd".

• The US TV program Entertainment Tonight, broadcast on Wednesday May 22, had a report on the making of the new Star Trek movie.

Film Title - The film is now officially known as: Star Trek: First Contact.

New Enterprise - Although the new Enterprise NCC 1701-E was not shown in the report, it was clearly visible on computer monitors in the background of the bridge. It appears to be a cross between the Excelsior (or Enterprise-B) and Voyager. Sleek with long warp nacelles.

The Bridge - The new bridge layout is a cross between the Enterprise-D, and Voyager. The bridge is on multiple levels (as usual), with conn and ops at the front, with a console similar in style to that seen on the original TV Enterprise/Enterprise-B. Tactical is behind the Captain's chair, as on the Enterprise-D (although the horse-shoe arch has gone). There are consoles to both sides, and along the walls (similar to "Generations"). The Captain's chair is raised slightly on a platform, above those of First Officer, and Counsellor, which again are to the right and left of him, respectively. The bridge colour scheme appears to be bronze and burgundy.

The Observation Lounge - This is similar to the O/L as seen on the Enterprise-D, but again, has the new bronze and burgundy colour scheme. Instead of having the wall mounted models of the previous ships to

bear the name "Enterprise", there is now a glass case containing gold-plated models of these ships.

New Uniforms - The crew have been kitted out in new style uniforms. These are not dissimilar to the DS9/Voyager/"Generations" uniforms, and the main part of the uniform is again coloured black. The part of the uniform across the shoulder which would normally be coloured to denote the department is now coloured grey, and turtleneck is now in the colour designated for the department (burgundy for command, gold for engineering etc...). The turtleneck has a fastening down the front of it, so technically it's no longer a turtleneck! The cuffs have a thin coloured stripe which also denotes the department. The rank pips and communication badges are the same as seen in "Generations".

No Rank Changes - Crew members were spotted with their regular designated rank pips i.e. Picard had four solid pips, and is therefore still a Captain, Riker had three, so is still a Commander!

Geordi - Geordi has finally lost his VISOR! He now has weird metallic looking contact lenses, which are probably "ocular implants", similar to those seen in "All Good Things".

Doctor Crusher - Now sporting a new look... *Blonde* shorter hair!

Part of the report showed Captain Picard announcing that a Borg ship was on course for Earth! (from Engage Vol 3 38)

The VISOR was dropped at the request of LeVar Burton, who had decided he was not going to do the film if he had to continue wearing it.

In addition to Dwight Schultz's cameo as Barclay, Robert Picardo will pop up as the Enterprise's emergency holographic doctor.

H.R. Giger, who had been approached to redesign the Borg for the film, did not wind up involved with the production.

According to Ian Spelling's "Inside Trek" column the Enterprise-E is a "Sovereign"-class vessel.

• GNP Crescendo Records has secured the rights to the original soundtrack to "Star Trek: First Contact" featuring an original score by

Jerry Goldsmith.

• Some snippets of ST: First Contact were shown on News in Review, Sky Movies 3/7/96. Included was a new face in the navigator's chair. A Mr Hawkes played by a young actor, Neal McDough, who has been on the receiving end of some good humoured ribbing due to his youthful good shape. He has earned the nickname of Young Starbuck because of his tight suit opposed to the rest of the cast's loose fitting garments. Patrick Stewart said to him, "For my close up shouldn't you eat another doughnut." Patrick appeared in the snippets in a trenchcoat, Michael Dorn in Starfleet uniform and Brent Spiner with a waistcoat. The bridge set no longer has a ramp and is a lot darker lit.

(Alan Stephen)

MISC

• Simon and Schuster are asking bookshops to contact them on 0171 316 1900 to host a Star Trek 30th Anniversary party.

• Star Trek Generations sold for TV broadcast - Mission: Impossible was part of an overall Paramount deal with ABC valued at \$80 million. Among the other films: The Phantom, Harriet the Spy and Star Trek II: Generations. (info San Jose Mercury News 4 June 1996).

• 4 Star Trek Generations Gather For Fans On Earth - Mark your calendars, trekkies: Capt. Kirk, Mr. Spock and Capt. Janeway will beam down to attend a "Star Trek" celebration. William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and Kate Mulgrew will join other actors from the four TV series for "Star Trek 30: One Weekend on Earth". Produced by Paramount Pictures and timed to coincide with the premiere of the TV show on Sept. 8, 1996, it will run Sept. 7 and 8 in Huntsville, Ala. "It's Woodstock for trekkies," said Neil Newman, a vice president for Paramount Pictures' Viacom Consumer Products.

He said ticket prices probably will range from \$30 for a single event to \$300 for a weekend package, including astronaut training and visits by several former NASA astronauts, including Alan Shepard and Fred Haise.

The Star Ledger, NJ Monday June 17th

The phone number is (205) 837-3400. It is one of those pick a number systems. Pick zero to speak with an operator. Be prepared for a possible long wait on hold. If you prefer, you can write them at U.S. Space and Rocket Center, 1 Tranquility Base, Huntsville, AL 35805. Put attn: Paramount Celebration.

- "Multi-Species Medicine," the newsletter of Siddig El Fadil's fan club, won the Fan Q (Fan Quality) Award for "Best Star Trek Non-Fiction Publication" for the second year running.

- At the 1996 ASCAP Television and Film Awards, Jay Chattaway and Dennis McCarthy won in the "Top TV Series" and "Most Performed Underscore" categories, for their DS9 scores!

- John Abbott, who played the Organian Ayelborne in the TOS episode "Errand of Mercy" (among many other roles in his career) died on May 24th. He was 90. (Los Angeles Times)

- Apparently in the new Jim Carrey movie "The Cable Guy", there's a "medieval fair" fight scene where in part the characters use weapons from the TOS episode "Amok Time," choreograph the fight similar to the Kirk/Spock pon farr battle, and Jim Carrey even sings along with the typical TOS "fight scene" music that is playing.

- Michael Piller has left Star Trek. Frequent Trek writer Joe Menosky (most recently "The Thaw" on VOY) has joined the Voyager writing staff.

- According to an article in The Herald, 17/6/96 the Star Trek Exhibition is heading for Birmingham, Bournemouth, Cologne and New Zealand. When management consultant Lyall Emsile decided to take the exhibition on the road after Edinburgh he had to get a loan of £250,00 from the Clydesdale Bank.

- The New Zealand Star Trek Fan Club has sent an official complaint to the New Zealand Commerce Commission over the Microsoft

Network's New Zealand service. Club officials claim the MSN services are a rip off considering the audience they are expected to gain when the Paramount Star Trek sites become fully exclusive to MSN.

Paramount Pictures made an agreement with MSN in the later half of 1995, in which the Star Trek and Entertainment Tonight web pages were to become exclusive to the Microsoft Network. At the time it seemed a good idea as it would ensure the continued service to Star Trek and ET fans with access to the Internet. What wasn't explained was that Internet users could only connect to the pages via an MSN server.

"For the price that the New Zealand branch of the Microsoft Network charges, it is reasonable to expect a good service, high speed modems and accessibility from every place in New Zealand. But instead our \$28.00 fee gets you two hours a month of slow internet access and associated toll bills for accessing it. There can be no justification for the \$19.00 extra hour charge - it's just too high."

"Australian users of MSN pay \$9.90 monthly access with gives them two free hours and every extra hour after this is \$5.00. There can be no justification for the price difference between the two countries - it's simply a rip off and New Zealanders will be forced to pay it to gain access to the Paramount Star Trek pages."

- "Colonel" Tom Parker celebrates his 87th birthday Wednesday at a luncheon given him by the executive staff of the Vegas Hilton, where he's still a consultant. Parker says he's working on the plans for the "Star Trek" attraction to open in the Hilton next year.

- Trying to seize onto some of the UFO tourism market, Nevada dedicated one of its highways as the "Extraterrestrial Highway". On hand were Brent Spiner and Jeff Goldblum (to promote their upcoming "Independence Day" film).

- In honour of the "Star Trek: Federation Science" exhibit arriving adorned with Star Trek graphics (illustrations and quotes). One train will be TNG-themed, the other TOS. Both trains will remain this way for the duration of the exhibit (May 25 thru

September 2)

Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3BH.

• Masquerade Youth Theatre presents DAZZLE based on Star Trek. 10th-14th September, 1996, Leeds Civic Theatre,

[Sources of information include Ruben Macias' Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet, rec.arts.startrek.current/info/fandom.]



Cast & Crew NEWS



• Fan Mail - Try actors' clubs first, especially with gifts! Mail sent to Paramount may not reach addressee. When writing to an actor always enclose a self-addressed envelope and an International Reply Coupon (available at main Post Offices).

Send TNG/DS9 mail to Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90038, USA.

Send Classic/Movie Mail c/o Lincoln Enterprises, 14710 Arminta Street, Panorama City, CA 91402-5904, USA

Exceptions:

Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, POB 691370, West Hollywood, CA 90069, USA. Majel will autograph a photo if you send one, or she can supply an autographed photo for \$5 plus SAE and postage. (UK 3 IRCs) Please say whether you want Chapel or Lwaxana.

Nichelle Nichols, c/o Jim Meechan, AR-WAY Prod., 22647 Ventura Bl, #121, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, USA.

Grace Lee Whitney, POB 69, Coarsegold, CA 93614, USA.

Robert Justman, POB 491008, Los Angeles, CA 90049-9008, USA

• **Avery Brooks** received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Oberlin College on May 27th. He had entered Oberlin in 1970 but later transferred to Rutgers where he received his degrees. Brooks didn't give the commencement address, but he did seem to enjoy being on stage and offered his congratulations to the graduates as they walked by.

• **Michael Dorn** presented a phaser and bat'telh to Planet Hollywood, Chicago on May 6.

• **Terry Farrell** has begun filming on a TV

movie for the USA Network called "Lover's Leap".

• **Michelle Forbes** (Ensign Ro) will be star with Kurt Russell in "Escape From L.A." this summer.

• **Whoopi Goldberg** will play herself in the "faux-documentary" satire, "An Alan Smithee Film". Weirdly enough, the role was originally written for Arnold Schwarzenegger, according to script writer Joe Eszterhas. (Reuters/Variety)

Whoopi Goldberg is in talks to revive the play "Two for the Seesaw". Her proposed co-star would be former DS9 guest Frank Langella. (Reuters/Variety)

Whoopi signed a 2 year deal with Caravan Pictures, with plans for her to co-produce and star in their movie "Lily White." (Critics' Choice and Studio Briefing)

Whoopi Goldberg and Natalie Portman are in talks to star in "Cinderella." The project, which has Alfonso Arau attached to direct from a script he rewrote, is being targeted for a late September start in Prague with a budget of \$40 million.

Goldberg would take up the wand as the fairy godmother and 15-year-old Portman would slip into the glass slipper as Cinderella.

• **Walter Koenig** is working on a new film, "Drawing Down the Moon". You can check out its WWW site at <http://www.netins.net/showcase/ddtm/>

• **Kate Mulgrew** and Stephen Collins star in "Mother's Day," a TV murder mystery movie

for ABC starring Trek. It was due to start filming May 20.

- **Leonard Nimoy** received an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters as part of his speaking at the commencement ceremonies of Sierra Nevada College.

The play direct by Leonard Nimoy, "The Apple Doesn't Fall..." which played 19 previews in Los Angeles opened on 14th April at the Lyceum Theater in New York and unfortunately closed on the same night after negative reviews.

- **Gene Roddenberry** - The ashes of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry will be launched into space this fall alongside those of LSD guru Timothy Leary and 29 other people, according to a report in Entertainment Weekly. Roddenberry's ashes had earlier been taken into orbit and returned to Earth during a space shuttle mission.

Gene Roddenberry's former personal assistant and his long-time friend have issued a "call to arms" for a letter writing campaign to convince the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences that Gene Roddenberry deserves to be inducted into the Academy's "Hall of Fame".

If you agree, send a card or letter expressing your support to:
Mr. James L. Loper
Academy of Television Arts & Sciences
5220 Lankershim Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601, USA
Fax #: (818) 761-ATAS

- **Dwight Schultz** (Barclay) is guest-starring in a new "Hart to Hart" TV movie (based on the TV series with Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers). The movie "Hart to Hart Till Death Do Us Hart" is currently in production and will air on the Lifetime cable network August 25th. (PRNewswire)

- **William Shatner** is set to play in yet another starring role -- this time as hockey legend and All-Star great Gordie Howe. Shatner will star in a movie based on the book My Three Hockey Players, which was

written by Howe's wife, Colleen. The book details Howe's return from retirement to play hockey with his sons Mark and Marty. (At a book signing in Livonia, Michigan on June 23rd Colleen Howe said that Shatner is NOT confirmed to do it. She went on to say that Shatner does want play the part...)

- **Brent Spiner** - an advert for the new John Travolta movie "Phenomenon" tonight showed, among other scenes, Travolta's character being tested by Brent Spiner, who appeared to be playing a scientist (the scene portrayed him as a psychologist). Spiner also plays a scientist in the upcoming movie "Independence Day".

Brent Spiner has recorded an audio book for Warner, an abridged version of Philip Kerr's, The Grid; List price is \$17 and the ISBN #1-57042-406-3.

- **Patrick Stewart** will be getting a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame in 1997.

Patrick was nominated for a Drama Desk (Lead Actor in a Play) award for playing Prospero in "The Tempest," but he lost to fellow Trek veteran Frank Langella ("The Father")

Patrick Stewart has plans to bring another Shakespeare to New York and after that to bring one to London. A filmed version of A Christmas Carol is said to be a possibility.

York Film Theater showed Jeffrey on July 5th.

- **George Takei** was scheduled to be in Santa Cruz at the 10th Annual Japanese Cultural Fair on Saturday June 22. The event was free and features over 50 booths of the culture, music and cuisine of Japan.

The following extracts are from a special on-line chat with George on Lunar Tide Communications who co-sponsored Monadno Con III.

George - I have another television appearance upcoming in a series titled Space Cases. I play a green, reptilian alien power lord who is out to conquer the galaxy. It was

a hoot doing but getting into the make up was a pain - a two hour long pain.

George - I will be doing another convention in London this summer (my second this year) It will be at the Radisson Edwardian Hotel at Heathrow. On the question on when the Voyager episode will air - I understand that Paramount is planning on using it during the "sweeps week" of November '96. So we have to wait over six months yet. I was truly impressed with the professionalism of the Voyager cast. I worked mostly with Kate Mulgrew and Tim Russ and they are real pros. I found Tim to be deeply knowledgeable about the history and lore of Star Trek, more so than me. His insistence on keeping the integrity of the Vulcan culture was very strong. He made script changes that made Tuvok's behaviour consistent with Vulcan culture where the writers had been derelict. For example, the script suggested that Tuvok had had an affair with a non Vulcan before his Pon Farr. He made sure that was corrected.

George - Paramount came up with the idea of Captain Sulu guesting on the Voyager series. Now the talk is of their using that episode as a pilot for the Captain Sulu series.

The address for the Captain Sulu lobbying campaign is: Ms. Sherry Lansing, Chairman, Paramount Pictures 5555 Melrose Avenue Los Angeles, California 90038 USA.

Yes it would be an uphill battle. But remember, the whole 30 year struggle of Star Trek has been a vivid demonstration of overcoming uphill battles. It has always been the fans vs. the powers-that-be at Paramount or NBC. And the fans have always won in the end. Do not be daunted by uphill battles. We have shown that we can overcome.

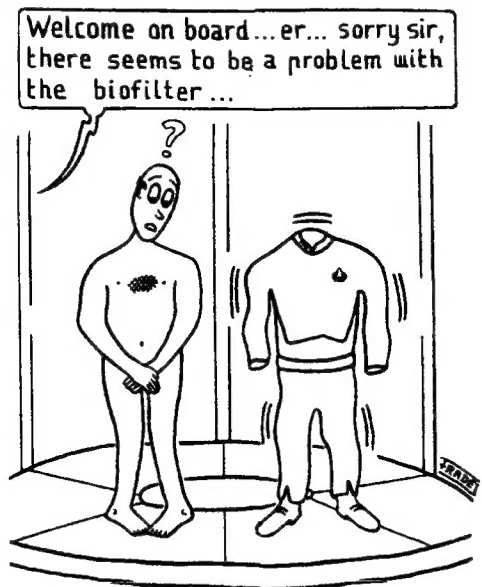
George - I too have heard of attendance dropping at some cons. As a matter of fact, there even have been rumours that Creation Conventions, the largest of the con organisers, might go bankrupt! Indeed, the ratings of the two current first run Star Trek series have left a great deal to be desired. Perhaps, it is because

of the routineness of things. Perhaps, there needs to be something fresh brought into all this. When Star Trek first appeared in 1966, it was the most innovative show, with the most shining ideals depicted on television. What is needed now is that same sense of innovation, new vision and bold venturesomeness.

George - I have found an enormous pool of talent among the fans themselves. I think a lot of that resource should be utilized and with the Captain Sulu series, I will strongly lobby for that. Also there have already been published many Star Trek novels that would lend themselves to being filmed. I will work for that. There is one titled "Captain's Daughter" where I learned how my daughter came about and who her mother was. I definitely want to get that story on film - especially my scenes with her mother. What a woman she was!

George - I do not know whether there will be another movie with all of the actors from the original cast. That decision is ultimately up to the powers at Paramount.

[Sources of information include P.S.A.S., High Trek, rec.arts.startrek, current/info/fandom, Compuserve SF Media Forum, Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet]





MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• UPCOMING BOOK RELEASES

- July TOS#79: **Invasion Book I: First Strike**
by Diane Cary
TNG#41: **Invasion Book II: Soldier of Fear**
by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch.
TNG: **Kahless** by Michael Jan Friedman
hbk.
- Aug VOY#9 **Invasion IV: Final Fury** by
Daffyd Ab Hugh
DS9#16 **Invasion III: Time's Enemy** by
L.A. Graf
ST#80 **The Joy Machine** by Sturgeon
and Gunn
TNG#42 **Infiltrator** by W.R. Thompson
Sep DS9#17 **Heart of the Warrior** by John
Betancourt
VOY **Flashback** by Diane Carey
VOY-HB **Mosaic** by Jeri Taylor
Oct TNG **Crossover** by Michael J. Friedman
TNG#43 **A Fury Scorned** by Sargent
and Zebrowski
Nov TNG-HB **Star Trek: First Contact** by
J.M. Dillard
DS9-HB **Saratoga** by Michael J.
Friedman
VOY#10 **Bless The Beast** by Karen
Haber
Dec ST#81 **Mudd In Your Eye** by Jerry
Olton
TNG#44 **Death of Princess** by John
Peel

• There is a full page advert in The Bookseller magazine for the 30th Anniversary of Star Trek on 8 September.

New Books:

Pop-up 3-d book due November £19.99
Revised chronology due November £14.99
1997 calenders (all 4 gen) due August £6.99
First Contact due December £12.99
Beam Me Up Scotty by J. Doohan, due
December £8.99
Voyager Mosaic due October £12.99

• Here are details of upcoming Star Trek novels for August and September 1996, as listed in the August 1996 issue of Advance Comics, the Capital City Distribution comics order catalog. The following items are from Pocket Books and are listed on pp. 225-226:

Star Trek Voy: Flashback by Diane Carey, based on the episode "Flashback" by Brannon Braga paperback, \$5.99, ships 9/96, ISBN: 0 671 00383 6

"The 30th Anniversary episode that spans the generations!" Lt. Tuvok's days 100 years ago with Capt. Sulu of the Starship Excelsior have literally come back to haunt him, putting himself, Janeway, Rand, and Sulu in the path of a menace to galactic life unlike anything ever known before!

Star Trek #80: The Joy Machine by James Gunn, paperback, \$5.99, ships 8/96, ISBN: 067100221X

The Joy Machine is based on a story by Theodore Sturgeon and finds the crew of the Enterprise journeying to a "pleasure planet," where the inhabitants have succumbed to an insidious technology that guarantees every citizen total pleasure, a soul-destroying ecstasy that has enslaved their entire civilization.

From John Ordovery - In the sixties, Theodore Sturgeon, the author of Amok Time and Shore Leave, sold another story treatment called "The Joy Machine" to Gene Roddenberry for TOS.

For one reason or another, mostly having to do with the show going off the air after only three seasons, The Joy Machine was not produced.

I managed to get a copy of the story treatment, contacted Sturgeon's estate (Sturgeon died about 10 years ago) and bought the novelization rights. I then contacted an old friend of Ted Sturgeon's, James Gunn, the same one who wrote The Listeners and many other books and stories

(he also happens to be my writing teacher from when I was at the University of Kansas) and asked him to write a Star Trek novel based on Sturgeon's story treatment.

The book will be out in mid-August. Hope you like it.

Star Trek TNG #42: Infiltrator by W.R. Thompson paperback, \$5.99, ships 8/96, ISBN: 0671568310

Genetically engineered infiltrators bring the U.S.S. Enterprise to the brink of a new eugenics war. The followers of the tyrant Khan Noonien Singh (THE WRATH OF KHAN) left Earth long ago to continue their experiments in selective breeding. Now the results of that experimentation are ready to attempt to take over the universe.

Star Trek Voy: Mosaic by Jeri Taylor hardcover, \$22.00, ships 9/96, ISBN: 0 671 56311 4

"The Incredible Life Story of Captain Kathryn Janeway!" In the heat of battle, Captain Janeway is forced to make a terrible decision, and in so doing reviews her entire life in flashback form. From her childhood to her days at Starfleet Academy, from her first love to her first command, she must again face the challenges and conflicts that have brought her to this point in time and space... This, the first Voyager hardcover, is by Jeri Taylor, who is co-creator and executive producer of Star Trek: Voyager.

Kate Mulgrew will be reading 'Mosaic' for audio."

Star Trek DS9 #17: The Heart of the Warrior by John Gregory Bentancourt paperback, \$5.99, ships 9/96, ISBN: 0 671 00239 2

Major Kira and Lt. Commander Worf embark on a dangerous undercover mission that strikes at the heart of the Dominion!

Star Trek: ST Acad #2: Aftershock by John Vornhoit, young readers paperback, \$3.99, ships 8/96, ISBN: 0671000799

This young readers Star Trek adventure features interior illustrations by Todd Cameron Hamilton. Starfleet Academy students McCoy and Spock risk their lives to save earthquake victims on the planet Playamar.

Star Trek: ST Acad #3: Cadet Kirk by Diane Carey, young readers paperback, #3.99, ships 9/96, ISBN: 0 671 00077 2

On a shuttle trip to a lecture, Intern McCoy, Ensign Spock, and Cadet Kirk are kidnapped by space pirates. Outnumbered and outgunned, the three must act fast if they're to foil the pirates' real plan. This young readers Star Trek adventure features interior illustrations by Todd Cameron Hamilton.

The following items are magazines from Starlog Press:

Star Trek 30th Anniversary Special #1, \$12.99 The only Paramount Pictures authorized, licensed publication chronicling all 30 years of Star Trek, prepared by the editors of Starlog, the science fiction authorities! An all-new, all-color, 148-page deluxe edition, this guaranteed, instant collectible follows in the footsteps of Starlog's all-time-best-selling Star Trek 25th Anniversary Special! Features four blueprint gatefolds. And complete, comprehensive coverage of all eight Star Trek movies (including the new movie out in November) and all five Star Trek TV series (Classic Trek, animated Trek, TNG, DS9, and VOYAGER). Nobody knows Star Trek like the Starlog team.

Star Trek 30th Anniversary Crossword Special #1, \$6.99 - This special includes crossword puzzles, word search puzzles, jumbo puzzles, Stardate matching quizzes, krisskross puzzles, and cryptograms -- all of which are thematic, devoted to the four Star Trek TV shows and the seven Star Trek movies!

Star Trek Voyager Magazine #9, \$5.99

The across-the-board 30th salute to Star Trek continues with an exclusive cover story interview with George Takei -- Captain Sulu of Classic Star Trek -- as he makes his historic crossover appearance on Star Trek: Voyager in flashback (airing in September to tie in with the 30th anniversary). Plus a candid chat with Brad Dourif, guest killer, and a complete wrap-up of the second season episode synopsis. This is a must have item for all Trekkers!

Starlog #231, \$4.99 As the celebration of 20 years of service to SF fandom continues, Starlog itself salutes the 30th anniversary of the Star Trek phenomenon from an altogether different angle, featuring a look at the Lost Captain of the Enterprise, the first actor to star in Trek, the late Jeffery Hunter. Trek celebrities reflect on the 30-year-ride. Voyager writers debate Star Trek's literary legacy. Also, interviews with Marc (Gul Dukat) Alaimo and Eric (The Traveler) Menyuk. Plus, Escape From L.A. and Buck Rogers.

- The updated "**Star Trek Chronology: The History of the Future**" will include Voyager events, and be 320 pages, and have full color photos.

- "**Star Trek: These Are Voyages**" – a three-dimensional Star Trek album 1966-1996. The first interactive, three dimensional adventure book. Celebrates 30 years of Trek with 3-D of some the most incredible voyages of Starfleet's finest from the U.S.S. Enterprise to Voyager.

- **Star Trek The Next Generation 20th Century Computers & How they Worked** - published in the USA by Alpha Books.

This book has been on sale in a major Manchester bookshop recently. The shock on seeing the dollar/pound conversion caused me to drop the book - from US\$18 to (avert your eyes now) the pound equivalent of US\$42. Whilst US books are often more expensive here, this really does go way over the top. If you want a copy, it is cheaper to telephone a New York bookstore, and pay for airmail despatch by credit card. Goodness knows who is taking the rip-off profit on this one! (info Stephen Shaw)

• VIDEO UPDATE

Please note: I have filled the titles in from my lists. Check before buying.

July 22nd

Star Trek: Deep Space 9 season volume 4.8

Sons of Mogh/Bar Association

Star Trek Voyager season volume 2.7

Dreadnought/Death Wish

Star Trek volume 1.3

The Man Trap/The Naked Time/Charlie X

August 5

Star Trek: Voyager volume 2.8

Lifesigns / Investigations

Star Trek volume 1.4 Episodes 10-12

Balance Of Terror/What Are Little Girls/

Dagger Of The Mind

Star Trek volume 1.5 Episodes 13-15

Miri/Conscience Of The King/Galileo Seven

August 19

Star Trek volume 1.6 Episodes 16-18

Court martial/Menagerie/Shore Leave

Star Trek volume 1.7 Episodes 19-21

Squire Of Gothos/Arena/Alternative Factor

September 9

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine volume 4.9

Ascension / Rules of Engagement

Star Trek: Voyager volume 2.9

Deadlock / Innocence

Star Trek volume 1.8 Episodes 22-24

Tomorrow Is Yesterday/Return Of The

Archons/A Taste Of Armageddon

September 30

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine volume 4.10

Hard Time / Shattered Mirror

Star Trek: Voyager volume 2.10

The Thaw / Symbiogenesis

Star Trek volume 1.9 Episodes 25-27

Space Seed/This Side Of Paradise/Devil In

The Dark

- The Omnimedia home page at Simon & Schuster Interactive states that they have pushed back the Omnimedia Update release date to August. Alongside will be TNG seasons (1-7) and DS9 seasons (1-4) episode guides. <http://www.mcp.com/17293365487/ssi/ssint/trek/omniped.html>

- Coming later this year, Interplay Productions will be releasing Star Trek: Star Fleet Academy, based on the original 60's TV series. Rendered in 3-D graphics with real-time gameplay, it has 27 levels of puzzles, battles and training. When you've passed muster, you will join Captain Kirk, Ensign Chekhov and Lieutenant Sulu on the Starship Enterprise. Using the actual voices of the original actors for interactive realism, the game should be a big hit for Trek fans. The game will be released for DOS, Windows 95, Sony Playstation and Power Mac.

• "Star Trek: Voyager" CD-ROM game, to be released in the 1st quarter of 1997:

"When a Voyager away-team is captured by a violent Kazon sect, the Voyager crew is unwittingly drawn into a devious scheme masterminded by the most dangerous adversary the crew has ever encountered.... This episodic adventure game lets players take command of the Starship Voyager and its crew as they guide it to survival in an entirely new adventure. Players interact with new Delta Quadrant alien races, solve complex technical simulation puzzles, and engage in multiple ship-to-ship confrontations while striving to unravel the mystery of a forgotten race.

"The game's real-time graphics create a realistic 3D-rendered Star Trek crew, and the advanced "Team AI" technology allows players to control them all. Authentically detailed photo-realistic 3D environments include the Starship Voyager, alien ships, shuttlecrafts, and planets visible through multiple POV's.

Developed by Looking Glass Technologies, creators of "Flights Unlimited" and "TerraNova." To be released on Windows95 CD-ROM only."

• Kate Mulgrew, William Shatner, DeForest Kelley, David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson all in one tabloid! "Lifestyles of the Rich and Fabulous: Psychic Secrets of the Stars (Special Edition)". Kate's on the cover, on pages 52-3 she mostly talks about her kids and her house. There is a photo spread, including a shot of her lounging on a table. Good photos too of Gillian on pages 8-12, with decent interview. Shatner and Kelley are on pages 14-15 in tidbits about their personal UFO experiences.

• Marvel promises a "fresh editorial approach" to Star Trek comics. Nothing is firm, but Paramount Comics Star Trek titles may include:

- * Star Trek: Deep Space Nine
- * Star Trek: Voyager
- * Star Trek: Unlimited (a quarterly comic featuring TOS and TNG stories, with limited series possible)
- * Star Fleet Academy (based on the young adult novels)
- * Enterprise: The Early Voyages (featuring

pre-Kirk stories)

Star Trek comics count 406 and holding (not including deluxe or limited editions, ashcans, previews, collections, or reprints).

Coming Attractions:

[Marvel Comics] 01 28 Aug 1996

X-Men/Star Trek The X-Men meet the crew of the Enterprise as Marvel celebrates its 35th anniversary and Paramount celebrates "30 Years of Star Trek". Also includes a 16-page preview of Marvel's Paramount Comics Star Trek titles. 64 pages.

Paramount/Marvel Comics label:

Star Trek: Voyager will be released on Sept. 4
 Star Trek: DS9 will be released on Sept 11
 Star Trek Unlimited will be released on Sept. 25. Star Trek: Unlimited will feature two different stories; one Classic crew and one Next Generation story. The Next Generation will feature the Gorn.

• Skybox will release 30 years of Star Trek Reflections of the Future Phase III this September. The third and final installment of the cards series concludes with "the Cosmic Phenomena of Star Trek." Look again at the same marvels the crews of the Enterprises have experienced during their journeys in this set of 100 cards, along with Celebrity Tribute cards, Award cards, and Mural cards. Limited edition insert cards include three 3-D motion cards, and nine card foil stamped set Mural tribute to Gene Roddenberry, one Skymotion Card featuring the wormhole from Deep Space Nine and one card previewing Star Trek: First Contact.

• TV ZONE 80 June 1996. Includes an interview with Robert Duncan McNeill. • "Starburst" Special issue #28, 30th anniversary of Trek, has lots of photos and interviews, including one with Robert Beltran.

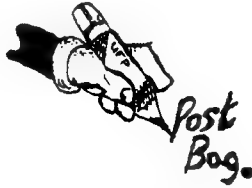
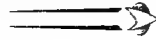
• ST OFFICIAL UK Fan Club Issue 10. Contains articles on Gene Roddenberry, Marc Alaimo, Dwight Schultz, Garrett Wang, The Science of Star Trek, plus news and reviews.

• Franklin Mint have released the Official

ST:TNG Tridimensional Chess Set. £145 (5 monthly payments of £29). Franklin Mint Ltd., 1 South Quay Plaza, London E14 9WS.

interview with Lawrence Krauss, the writer of the book *The Physics of Star Trek*.

- New Scientist 20th April 1996 has an



Please read our letter on page 1.

We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 500-550 words. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. As letters may be edited for length, if there is something you would prefer us not to cut please indicate this.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

You might find it useful to use the following smile symbols occasionally to indicate that your comment is not to be taken too seriously.

- :-) Basic smile
- ;-) Winky smile
- :(Frowning smile

• Audrey Anderson - St Paul, Minnesota

I think the major loss to fandom when IDIC ceases will be the loss of one of the last written records of cast news, fandom, new merchandise, zine reviews, etc. E-mail and

the Internet are fine in their place, but ephemeral. I can go back and read the STAG Newsletter, Rosemary Wild's Communicator, Halkan Council or Scuttlebutt if I want to remember how things were. Interstat is still interesting to read, although it's Dixie Owen's column that's of interest, not the letters. Now, there will be no written record of what Star Trek and fandom is doing to look back on. I certainly don't want to have to depend on the STOCF magazine. That's 16pp of Paramount propaganda wrapped around a catalog! I don't think I'll miss the postbag as much as the news columns; I've long since stopped being interested in what other fans think about episodes I've seen years ago and I think the only people who are interested in con reviews are the others who attended the same con.

• David Simons - Edgeware, Middlesex

I was shown a copy of the letter that Jacqueline Comben sent to IDIC regarding the point I made (attempted to make?) at Warp Two, regarding the Business Meeting.

I have no problems at all with what Jacqueline says but I'd like to clear up a misunderstanding that was probably created by my not making myself clear at the meeting.

Although I did raise the issue of the money the Warp 2 committee had lost, that had NOTHING to do with the issue. As I stated at the meeting the committee made a decision that we would be willing to lose money rather than cancel guests. If we had been willing to do so we could have eliminated the loss by cancelling one or more

of the guests (this is obvious when you consider that a business class airfare costs \$5,000 from LA to UK). We chose not to do this.

The reason I made the point about money was that we had spoken to the Wolf 359 committee in Oct 95 and said we were concerned they were running so close to us and that we might make a loss because of this. Their response was that they didn't care if we went bankrupt (that is a direct quote).

On similar lines there was a letter to BSFR in Stargazer 23 about Generations II. The writer says at the end that they know there has been issues over fan vs Commercial cons but they enjoyed themselves so they don't care.

And so on

The underlying issue is not whether we'd have made a profit if Wolf hadn't run. But that it took two years of hard work to put Warp Two together, and regardless of what happens no committee can guarantee not making a loss. Committees have to accept that, but if you are asking a committee to voluntarily put itself through that and then be told the fans don't care, as at the moment they would appear not to. Then I, for one, will NOT run another con.

The decision not to bid again was based on the fact the fans don't care and against this indifference the work I put in just doesn't feel worth it.

Please note this is my opinion and I am not trying to speak for all of the committee.

On a lighter note, I was watching the DS9 episode ACCESSION recently and Sisko is making a Bajoran blessing. Could someone tell me why the Universal Translator doesn't work on religious blessings. Even if some of the words were proper nouns you'd expect part of it to have been translated.

• **Jacqueline Comben - Rhossilli, Gower**

Although, in common with virtually all IDIC members, I am very, very sorry that

you have decided to wind up the club, I totally understand why. When I early-retired, I closed down 'Enterprise Originals' because there were so many better things to do here than slave over a hot computer. The advent of my first little dog had something to do with that as well!

It seems most unfortunate that you are obliged to raffle your personal possessions to cover club costs. If any members can afford the £5 or so for n/l's now not to be received, I hope they will tell you to put that into club funds quickly, so that you know where you are. As my sub seems to end just about when the club will, I am not much help!

If anyone starts a letterzine, I will gladly subscribe. This could include many of the shorter type of articles as well as letters per se. I suspect that some of the loss of IDIC members was due to TNG fans who were fans of that series rather than of Star Trek, as such. I like DS9, but no more so than B5. My true love was and is TOS and only through fandom can one continue to discuss, read about etc. Spock, Kirk etc..

By the way, I hope you will carry on printing the odd zine of stories placed during and after the movies.... and I do not say that only because one of mine is still unpublished!!!

• **Margaret Rainey - Harefield, Middlesex**

I'm very sorry to hear that IDIC will be closing in October.

Since this is the last letter I'll write to a fan club, I'm going to push the boat out and express a few opinions that I've been forming over the past 5-6 years. None of this is meant to offend any group in particular, it's just my observations as a long-time fan, so please don't get prickly. :-)

To me, IDIC's falling numbers/demise is just one more symptom of the general crisis that fandom seems to be going through at present. There's a kind of sad inevitability about the state of fandom right now, given its history. Once upon a time, back in the days when Star Trek was only one series and a handful of films, ST fandom was a sub-

culture all of its own, looked down on even by Science Fiction fans. Then came a second series, Paramount suddenly realised it could make money out of Trek till the cows came home, all sorts of merchandise appeared, more new series were spun off, and fandom boomed, suddenly becoming mainstream and even trendy. But many of the newer fans were of a different kind than the "oldies"... there was and is an inevitable Generation Gap.

First Generation Fans all went through the formative experience of discovering Star Trek to be the greatest thing since sliced bread, something that was ahead of its time, something they could identify with, and with values they could aspire to in a sometimes bleak and nasty world. First Generation Fans (for some reason ST fandom was predominantly female at this stage) also all share the experience of Being Alone; of being the *only* Star Trek fan in the known universe, of sneaking into WH Smiths and looking vainly for anything by James Blish with the words Star Trek on the cover, of living for the weekly BBC broadcast in the days before VCRs, of thinking there must be something wrong with themuntil that magical day that they discovered that THERE WERE OTHERS LIKE THEM OUT THERE. And there were even conventions once or twice a year, at which as many as 250 fans got together and talked Trek, without feeling guilty about it. Sheer heaven!

This sort of background inevitably shapes the persona in a way that later generations did not have to go through. Come the late 80s, and suddenly there was ST and/or TNG merchandise coming out of our ears, it was everywhere. The episodes were available on video, conventions sprang up left right and centre. New series appeared every year or two. A new kind of fan had appeared, younger, for whom Star Trek had *always* been there, more often male than in olden days, more akin to Science Fiction fandom, more interested in SFX and role-playing, in going to cons to watch videos that hadn't been on TV yet, and in buying merchandise, than in getting together purely to meet old friends and talk. These later generations, to be blunt, had fandom handed to them on a plate

(literally, if you consider The Hamilton Collection!) and perhaps don't view fandom in the same way as the "dinosaurs" tend to. Lately it seems, you're principally a fan of TNG, or a fan of DS9, or a fan of Voyager, rather than being a Star Trek Fan. (And there *is* a difference, in my humble opinion.) Fandom splintered, groups began to slag each other off, just the way SF fandom has done forever, and numbers at cons grew to the point where it was no longer possible to *know* most of the people who'd be there, let alone make friends with them.

Jackie Comben asked last issue "Whither Conventions?" and commented on the problem of too many cons, and the "official" British con losing attendances as a result. This is another part of the crisis. There *are* too many cons these days, and some organisers no longer seem to respect the "Gentlemen's Agreement" that was drawn up some years ago, with respect to not arranging anything near to, or clashing with, the British ST cons twice a year. As the market boomed, local cons boomed with it, and people were less willing to travel to the other end of the country to attend the main cons, when there was something else just down the road a week later. We're at the stage where fandom has generally fragmented so much that groups are just doing their own thing ... if they want to hold a con tailored to 'their' interest the week after the national con, they'll do it, regardless of the effect it may have on others. And don't get me started on "Professional" cons the epitome of the "make money out of Trek" syndrome that blights fandom as a whole.

But I'm not saying fandom is entirely to blame for its own ills - Paramount has a lot to answer for too. It seems determined to milk every last red cent out of the Trek franchise, and in so doing, will eventually destroy it. As ratings fall, as con attendances fall, as people stop buying merchandise because they're at saturation point, as Paramount stops making money, it'll say "You people don't care any more" and stop producing the goods. Then it'll accuse the fans of killing Star Trek off.

After any cycle of Boom there comes the

inevitable Bust. Perhaps the Trek bubble *has* burst, and we're beginning to see the deflation process occur. Personally, I shed few tears over this. It's my hope that once the dust settles, once the bickering stops, once Paramount and "Professional" cons stop trying to rook us, once there's less interest again in all things Trek, once the media fans have drifted on to the Next Big Thing, once Trek fandom is perhaps out of the mainstream and back into the ghetto then those of us who remain (and there *will* be a hard core of us, come what may) will have stood the test of time, and will perhaps again have the freedom to be just Star Trek Fans, enjoying the stories, characters, and values espoused by Gene Roddenberry's creations.

Maybe all these clouds over us right now have silver linings. If cons dwindle back to the size of a few hundred that they once were, and only occur two or three times a year, then so what? They were great fun once, and can be great fun again. If the "anoraks" (and be honest, they *are* out there) move on to something else, then so what? Will we miss them? If only a comparative handful of us are left standing once all the fuss dies down, well, haven't we been here before? To those from the later generations who stay behind after the party moves on, I say "welcome, glad to have you with us", to those who drift on to something else, I say "farewell, no hard feelings". Maybe in another 5-6 years, Trek fandom will be back in the ghetto, but take heart the ghetto can be a wonderful place!

As one who's made life-long friends, and had my life shaped, by my 27 years in Trek fandom, I know that whether it's fashionable or not, whether it's the current fad or not, I will *always* be a Star Trek Fan, and will share my values and hopes with all those who can say likewise. If that ends up being merely three of us and a dog, then I don't care! Keep the faith. We survived the famine years once, we've survived the boom years, now that the boom is fading, if necessary we can survive the famine again. I look forward to finding lots of ex-IDIC members still hanging in there among those inhabiting the ghetto a few years down the line..... see you there,

and save me a seat by the fire!

• Janet Taylor & Peter Hickman - Glenrothes, Fife

It was with a very significant sadness that we read newsletter 46 this morning. The significance is that we wished to share some good news with all IDIC members. We met through the IDIC personal ad on N/L 30. Peter advertised for people to share his Trek interests and Janet answered. We wrote as penpals for a while then arranged to meet. Over the last 2.5 years we have grown closer and have begun planning our wedding. If it was not for IDIC we would never have met! We are eternally grateful for the way our love of Star Trek has bought us together. Our wedding rings have been engraved with IMZADI. Peace and long life. *[Congratulations and all good wishes. Janet, Sheila, Valerie]*

• Alistair Blackett - 64 Ashton Gardens, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 7HQ

I am saddened by the decision to close IDIC, I have some sympathy with the committee as I'm sure it takes a lot of time and effort to keep the newsletter and everything else running. I'm a relatively recent convert to IDIC having been a member of the now sadly defunct FIB which I join on a recommendation from a friend. I joined IDIC on the suggest of Kim Knight of FIB; now I shall follow the advice of Jean Perrin (to Diane Burch, N/L 46) and seek to join Starfleet Command. I shall also try James Woodman's magazine when I get hold of an IRC. Incidentally, James, I hope it is in English, as my written French is not that good. I suppose if it's in French it can only help improve my limited skills in that language! *[Janet - It's in English]*

To Christopher Howell (N/L 45 P 40), Jean Perrin (N/L 46, P53) and others - I am surprised that Nog is eligible for Starfleet; is he not a citizen of the Ferengi Alliance, a "stellar nation" that if not openly hostile to the Federation has certainly had some relatively recent confrontations/incidents with the Federation? Perhaps he has the 24th century's equivalent of dual nationality? After all, it could be good for business/tax reasons!

To Brenda Allan (N/L 44 P 31) and others who have commented in a similar vein, I agree that we should be gracious about our disagreements and not get petty. Is it my imagination or have we turned the corner? Many of the comments in N/L 45 are friendly/conciliatory or at the very least "let's agree to differ". Somehow I expect in N/L 47 & 48 there will be a better team spirit, people will still have differences but they will be discussed rather than argued. I hope so.

To Jill Searle (N/L 45 P 36) - I am also a rail enthusiast. The use of the term "anorak" has changed over recent years. It is my understanding (others may have a different understanding) that the term was coined in the 1960s by disc jockeys working on floating pirate radio stations for the fans who came out to see them on sight-seeing boats (this would be about the time that anorak coats were very much in vogue). The term "anorak" stuck for radio enthusiasts; back in the early to mid 80s there were radio merchandising organisations known as Anoraks UK (which produced a weekly newsletter) and Anoraks Ireland. Towards the end of the 80s the term "anorak" started to be used, originally, by "alternative comedians" to describe people with minority interests, especially trainspotters, a fairly harmless bunch who until then had escaped from general media attention but who suddenly found themselves the subject of unwarranted ridicule. The term was also applied to people who enjoyed anything from exploring subterranean ruins to photographing lighthouses and lightships, and increasingly to computer enthusiasts. In conclusion, as a broadcasting enthusiast, I am proud to be called an anorak, but as a rail enthusiast, I take your point.

To Marcia Stanislawski (N/L 46 P 29) - Let's hope that you don't get too much "reality" out there and that the men in power, or whatever faith, flag or uniform find a way to keep the peace process moving. At least the elections went by without serious incident (as they did in India, a fact that received scant coverage here in the UK. Perhaps there is hope for mankind after all).

To Jean Perrin (N/L 46 P 30) and others -

Personally I consider it highly improbable, bearing in mind the number of UFO sightings by people from all walks of life, from all over the world, for a large number of years for them not to exist. If we accept that they do exist, then they may be engaged in all manner of missions. I believe that scientific study is the most likely, but they may even be here on pleasure trips! the way we do on wildlife safaris in Africa or whale spotting off Australia or North America. I believe it is highly likely that UFOs have more than one point of origin and each race that visits us has a slightly different agenda. A number of years ago I read a book that suggested that at least some of the UFOs might originate from under the Earth's oceans. It might sound far-fetched (and of course very well may be) but it was sensibly argued and I for one will keep an open mind,

A quick thought about Voyager. What will happen if they do get home? In view of the hostilities between the Maquis and the Federation, will they go back to being enemies and will Tom Paris be returned to the penal colony in New Zealand, or will they return just as the peace treaty is being signed? I suspect that they will never make back home, just as in *Lost in Space* and rather like Heyes and Currie never got their amnesty in *Alias Smith and Jones*. However, time will tell.

Finally, I shall miss the exchange of views in the letters pages. I might not respond to every letter but I read them all with interest. I can see that I am going to have to get onto the Internet although I'm still learning how to use a PC (and often struggling!) In the meantime, if anyone would like to drop me a line they are more than welcome to. I'm happy to discuss *Star Trek*, B5, or just about any cult TV as well as current affairs, sport, travel, the weather or anything sensible. I also wonder if there is any interest in setting up a local *Star Trek* group in the Cambs, Beds, Herts area. If so I'd like to hear from you.

• **Kaz Dracklon (Alberto Gorin) - Holland**

I never compare *Classic* with TNG, DS9, B5 and *Voyager*; I judge each show on itself. The *Classic* part of TNG was made by Gene

Roddenberry and after he died a new staff came. Classic was made in the 60s, DS9 and B5 in the 90s', two different periods of time.

Some members do forget that to make Star Trek or B5 is very hard; sometimes I wonder if members are aware of it. If the staff of Star Trek read some letters in the Postbag they wonder if the writer is better; if so, he or she can do it.

I admit sometimes I don't understand the story in an episode of TNG or DS9; I understand B5 better. On the other hand we are living in a free country, so let every member sing their own song.

I am sorry for the drop in members. The member who introduced me stopped, but I'll stick around till the end.

• James Woodman - Le Relais Des Garrigues, Route de Fronton, 82170 Grisolles, France

I am very sorry to hear about the closure of IDIC; this was the first club I joined and the closure is a tragic blow to ST fans.

To Marcia Stanislawski - I doubt very much that Chakotay mentioned in DS9 has any parental links with the one in Voyager. Janeway or Chakotay would most probably have said something about it by now.

I have to agree with you about the post-Roddenberry changes in Star Trek. Gene would have been pleased that his series has evolved into so many different formats. Would Majel be with DS9 if she did not agree to the series? I hope that this does not sound bad, but Star Trek could not have survived with Mr Spock and Co.

To Jean Perrin - Maybe the Federation helped the Klingons after the Khitomer peace conference. They could have just tractorated it to a distant place.

To Nicole Comtet - Where do you live? I know of no Star Trek fans in France; would you mind contacting me? Star Trek:TNG and DS9 will be appearing on Canal Jimmy in the next couple of months. I hope that it follows the success of X "Aux Frontiere De Reel" Files

and Babylon 5.

To Lesley Arrowsmith - I think that Rowan Atkinson should be the leader of the Changelings - can you imagine his face!

To Catharine Hill - TOS and TNG were to say fantasy series, DS9 and Voyager are slightly more realistic with realistic messages (Majoran-Federation, The Maquis, The Circle...)

To David Williams - Troi piloted the Enterprise (result, the ship crashed). I'm sure that Dax has had more than her fair share of piloting experiences, hardly anybody wants to go to DS9 (Q-less) so they must be pleased when someone volunteers to go there. Defiant has been hit and nearly destroyed on countless occasions. You know the saying, they don't make them like they used to!

To Edward Woo - Voyager has a crew of 145, they can't afford to drop off people at every inhabited planet. They would need defence systems, at least a shuttlecraft, and they would face constant threat from the Kazon and Vidians.

• Lesley Arrowsmith - Three Cocks, Brecon

I was saddened to see that IDIC is coming to an end. It's been an invaluable way of keeping in touch with fandom for me. I think you're right to end it rather than pass it on, though. I know how much work goes into running a much smaller organisation and I have nothing but admiration for the high standards you've kept up over many years. I wish you all every success in the future.

Now, while I still can:

To Vered Gilad - The only B5 merchandise I've seen here in Britain are 3 novels (all very good and well written).

To Helen White - Loved the Blyton Trek (I am looking at 6 shelves of Enid Blyton in the Children's Bookshop even as I write!) I'd also like to say how much I've enjoyed your many con reports (especially the Morecambe/Great Escape one).

To Anne-Marie Flowers - If sexism is an instinct, isn't it interesting that, at times of necessity, the instinct can be dropped so that women are suddenly deemed capable of doing previously male-only jobs. For instance, women worked in heavy industry in the First and Second World Wars.

In frontier situations throughout history all contributions to society, from whatever source, were needed for the survival of that society. There were women speakers in the Allthing in Medieval Iceland, for example, and women stagecoach drivers in the Wild West. On the religious "frontier" new Christian denominations have tended to be much more sexually equal in power, eg women leaders of the Quakers and Shakers. At the beginning of the Scouting movement, Girl Scouts (not Guides) acted exactly like the boys - until Olive Baden-Powell made them into happy little homemakers. And on the Final Frontier, Gene R had it in The Cage and it's taken until now to get a woman Captain - showing that the film and TV industry in the States isn't on any kind of frontier.

To Michael Flett - I thought that your article, The Adaptation of Fandom to (Commercial) Reality, was excellent, I agree with everything you said.

To Taruka Q - We get white hairs on everything from our 3rd cat, Cathwen. Have you considered getting a yellow carpet?

• **Moirá Warburton - Ickenham (originally from Skelmersdale)**

I have not written to the Postbag for over a year but I thought that as there are only two issues to go, I will finally pluck up the courage and list my favourite episodes. Although I have been a newcomer to IDIC, I have been a Star Trek fan for years. I'm 27 and remember watching it as a child and I have loved science fiction ever since. Anyway, here are my favourite episodes of Star Trek in all its guises.

TOS (this will always be my favourite) in no particular order: City at the Edge of Forever, The Trouble with Tribbles, Mirror Mirror, By Any Other name, A Piece of the Action, Wolf in the Fold, Amok Time, Shore

Leave, The Enemy Within, Balance of Terror. No favourite character - love them all.

TNG in no particular order: Best of Both Worlds, Yesterday's Enterprise, The Drumhead, Chain of Command, Remember Me, Conspiracy, The High Ground, Measure of a Man, Frame of Mind, The Host. Favourite characters, Picard, Dr Crusher, Worf, Riker.

DS9 (second favourite series) in no particular order: Duet, Necessary Evil, Way of the Warrior, The Wire, Second Skin, Civil Defence, Improbable Cause, The Die is Cast, In the Hands of the Prophets, Captive Pursuit. Favourite characters, Kira, Odo, Quark, Garak, Gul Dukat, Sisko.

The movies in order: 1) TUC, 2) TWOK, 3) TVH, 4) TSFS, 5) TFF, 6) Gen, 7) TMP.

Voyager - Only seen a few episodes. I didn't think much of what I saw. Liked the opening titles, all the characters except Neelix, but the episodes I can only describe as wishy washy. I will keep watching in the hope that it gets better.

If ever I manage to get to a convention I hope I will bump into some former IDIC members.

• **Nicole Comtet - France**

It gave me quite a shock when I read that you have decided to close IDIC next October.

I shall not miss the Postbag, which was at times rather tedious, as much as all the reviews and information that you gave on what's on in Star Trek. I enjoyed specially the book and zine ads and reviews, always the first thing I looked for in IDIC, a good reference before ordering books or zines.

At least I am thankful that you plan to carry on with ScoTpress - where else could I send my stories for publication? Where else would I get good, reliable zines? But how shall we know where and what you publish? Will you print a bulletin of sorts with ads and reviews to keep us informed? That would be a great help. *[Sheila - if you leave an SAE with me I can let you know as new zines*

come out.

Well, all good things... but it is very sad. Still, it was great while it lasted, and I shall be forever grateful to Janet, Sheila and Valerie for what they did for us. So much devotion to Star Trek is exceptional.

In N/L 46 I found the usual interesting articles which made IDIC so special, but one drew my attention particularly. The Adaptation of Fandom to Reality by Michael Flett. A very good, enlightening article which describes perfectly the present situation in fandom, and also the reasons why IDIC membership has dropped off. The new ST fans are no longer interested in what made fandom so wonderful in the past. It is too bad, but times have changed, and so have the fans.

About the campaign for more Classic Trek, I read comments in the Postbag saying that the actors might feel too old, might not be interested, etc... On the contrary! From what they said at Generations Con in London, they would be interested and willing. James Doohan said it would be great but it won't happen because Paramount does not want the original cast any more. George Takei, of course, is always ready to resume his role of Captain Sulu! When asked about a film with his fellow actors, Bill Shatner agreed it might be a good idea - he has stories in mind for more films. And when asked about the return of Spock, Leonard Nimoy told us at his convention in Nottingham that there are always possibilities. He would be ready to play Spock again, but it depends on Paramount. So there you are - they are all willing to come back, but... If only the Powers That Be would come to their senses!

• **David Povey - 25 Peters Hill Rd, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 2QH**

I was extremely saddened to hear of your decision to close the newsletter after number 48, although it was not an entire surprise to me.

I fear the demise of the newsletter of late can be put down totally to the Postbag section. The main problem, I think, is that the newsletter as a whole depends too much on

the Postbag for interest and entertainment.

If the Postbag had been restricted to 6-8 pages with the rest of the space made up with more episode reviews, articles etc, I think this problem would not have cropped up in the first place. I would agree that most of the "old arguments" have been thrashed out to the end and perhaps we could have tried discussing things outside the Star Trek spectrum which would still have been of interest to us (after all, we *all* live in the real world for most of the time).

To the committee - Please don't take offence at my comments, I understand your feelings totally. I shall miss the newsletter more than you will know and I thank you for your devotion to us over the last few years. It has certainly livened up my life and a part of it will now feel very empty indeed.

Finally, to everyone - I'd like to close by quoting one of James Blish's most moving comments I've ever heard. "Idealism lasts, if you love it, just like the show itself - be of good cheer, we're not alone no matter how often we may think we are."

All letters will be gratefully received and answered. Live long and prosper.

• **Leslie Moyes - Glenrothes, Fife**

Hi, everyone.

Wow! I just caught Our Man Bashir and it has to be one of the best and grooviest DS9 ever! :- Well, the music was. Actually, this is not the first time Trek has gone to the land of espionage, check out Assignment earth of the men from Enterprise and it's just as fab and groovy!

To T'Mara and Prosbear - In Homefront/Paradise Lost, not one Vulcan was seen on Earth! Why? And does anyone have any idea that Voyager has been infiltrated by Changelings?

Has anyone caught Space Above and Beyond yet? What a cool show!

Before I go here's a message for CIC Video - Shame on you! - and you know why!

• **Sandra de la Cruz Alvarez - C/Tellez, n.17**
esc.2, 6.A, 28007-Madrid, Spain

Hello everybody everywhere!

I am a newcomer to IDIC. 46 was my first newsletter although since it's going to be closed I've received since issue 43.

First of all, I know now - I am a jinx. When something good reaches me, it soon disappears. So *please* (I'm actually begging) don't close the letterzine! It is too good to be true. When I got the four newsletters I simply couldn't put them down. It's a beautiful contact point to all kinds of Trekkies so please think about it once more!

I've been a Trekkie for half my life now, so TOS is my favourite of all the series. I honestly don't know what it is about it, but it has something the other series don't have. The best explanation I can offer is that the new series make me think, and TOS makes me think *and* feel. Since science fiction is my playground, I like everything that has to do with it. and TNG, DS9 and Voyager are good science fiction, but TOS is just like the first love.

Here in Spain we have only seen TOS, the first four seasons of TNG, about 15 episodes of DS9 and absolutely nothing of Voyager. Gratefully, I have my connections and I now have 6 seasons of TNG and a few episodes of Voyager. My favourites are - TOS: Amok Time (I don't need to explain why, do I? :-)), The Tholian Web and Mirror Mirror (I like everything that has to do with parallel universes) and Requiem for Methuselah (ah, that mind meld!), TNG: Measure of a Man (a great, great episode), Remember Me and Cause and Effect (real and good science fiction); DS9, well, I don't have material enough to make an opinion; and Voyager, Eye of the Needle and Projections (Wow!)

To Michael Hill - I love ST:V too. As Jason Rorbach said, it's like an old classic episode but with a bigger budget and better, I might add. There's plenty of action ("Let's go rescue some hostages!"), personal conflict, the Big Three's unique magic at its best (I only wish they had sung Yesterday :-)), adventure and... everything.

To Vered Gilad and Gloria Fry - Great articles: Relationships and Fans of the Original Series, Stand up and be Counted. I *totally* agree with you.

Finally, since Spain is like the Third World for Star Trek, I would welcome any letters.

• **Jean Perrin - Burton upon Trent, Staffs**

To Jean Sloan - Thank heavens I'm not the only one who can't remember episode titles. I thought it was just me. Do you think it's because we are both called Jean, or is it that most Jeans now belong to "a certain age group" approaching senility. I agree that the naval scene could have been dropped from Generations; I would rather have seen the skydiving scene that was cut, but I suppose the TNG actors would have complained even more that they had not enough to do. However, I can't agree that Tuvok is a good Vulcan. I don't think we have seen enough of him. As a character, I think he is greatly underused. At his age he should be more than a lieutenant. He should be First Officer, but I suppose politics demanded that Chakotay get the job along with most of the action Tuvok should have.

To all who think B5 is better than DS9. Hardly a week goes by without violence on B5, now the nightwatch is plotting against the Captain and taking over. Is that what we want on DS9? Is that Gene Roddenberry's dream of the future? I'm surprised Majel agreed to appear in that episode (the only thing I recognised about her was her voice anyway). Gene was hoping mankind would be over such in-fighting by 2260, and so am I.

To James Woodman - The status of O'Brien and his engineers gets more bizarre every minute. Years ago when we only had CT, I read that the crew of the Enterprise were *all* officers and certainly Scotty went to the Academy, as did Geordi, so when did things change? I see in the latest episodes O'Brien has yet another rank insignia on his collar, different from anything seen so far - does anyone know what that is supposed to be?

To Stephen Shaw - I also wonder what

has happened to the Organians and why did they never do anything about the Borg, who are a far greater threat than the Klingons ever were.

To Catherine Hill, etc - I hope Trek has an impact on children, then we may get less racial intolerance in inner cities.

Still with Catherine - I can think of a number of ST books that would have made better films than ones we have seen so far.

To Sheila Clark - I was surprised to see in your review of *The Rings of Tautee* that you didn't know that warp drive was a necessary qualification for first contact. I read somewhere (I can't remember where, I'm still called Jean and approaching senility) that there are a number of qualifications including planetwide government, world peace and warp drive, which is usually the last to be achieved although they often find a way round the other qualifications. *[Sheila - If a race has developed warp drive, it will presumably be exploring space so the odds are it will be making first contact with the Federation, not the other way round. If the Enterprise meets a strange ship in space, this is hailed with, "This is Captain of the Federation Starship Enterprise," the assumption being that the race on the ship has already heard of the Federation. That's not what I understand by first contact. First meeting, yes, but a meeting of apparent equals. We're told several times that technology is given sparingly to a race that has been contacted so that it will continue to develop its own resources. I agree that it makes sense for a race to have space travel and be capable of interplanetary flight, so that the technology involved isn't going to look like magic, but even that was ignored if a planet had something the Federation needed - eg in Friday's Child (TOS). In the TNG episode First Contact, the Federation was observing the planet on the ground, using observers disguised as natives; and while the planet's scientists were toying with space flight, the race was actually psychologically not ready for it. But it certainly seemed clear to me that the criteria being used by the Federation included having the technology to build a ship capable of*

going into space, without a manned ship actually having been sent into space.]

• **White Hawk**

There seems to be some confusion as to what the Maquis is and what principles they are fighting for.

I believe that the Maquis were first introduced in the TNG series. Ensign Ro Laren was sent to investigate recent raids in Federation space. In this series we see mainly Bajorans, but there are other races that have joined the Cause - the Dorvan V native Americans are one group, and they are protecting their homeworld.

Any Federation personnel are there either for the money - Tom Paris - or for political reasons - Thomas Riker. The Bajoran Maquis out there can give their own answer to this question - I await their reply.

An attack on Federation or Cardassian vessel is usually undertaken to obtain medical supplies unavailable elsewhere, or as self defence. I believe that Chakotay gave his answer in *Tattoo* as to why he was Maquis.

On a different track, may I ask why is it that Vulcans are mentioned on the DS9 series but we never see any on the station? The few that are mentioned are usually referred to collectively as a Vulcan science vessel exploring the Gamma quadrant or a Vulcan medical technique (sic). Vulcans would make a good staff quota for the science or medical departments.

Last of all - if there are any new books/zines being written in the near future, can the authors base them on Vulcan or Vulcan ships?

• **Vered Gilad - P.O. Box 6404, 61064 Tel-Aviv, Israel**

When I heard IDIC was closing I almost cried. Don't think that I am a fanatic Trekkie because of that reaction. Many will consider me quite moderate. I do not dress up, collect models, trading cards or signatures. I concentrate on watching Trek, reading a lot about it (novels and reference) and my favourite passion, discussing it. I love ST

since watching TOS as a child, but not until 3 years ago did I become a fan. More than 1.5 years ago I joined IDIC and started contributing almost from the moment I joined. IDIC is not a news paper for me. It is a gathering of friends, kindred spirits, people who share my special interest, with whom I can discuss it and not feel like a freak. I almost cried when I heard of it closing because I felt like someone will be cutting me off from my friends. I have Trekkie friends here and great pen-pals overseas, many of them thanks to IDIC, and this will definitely help me when IDIC closes. Still, I will miss reading so many different points of view about various subjects and all the little IDIC inside jokes. As a mainly TOS fan, I will find it hard, as not too many people here like TOS like me. As a ST fan from overseas, I will miss being in contact with so many others like me from all around the world. I will miss you, my friends.

I would like to make a point of mine from the previous N/L clear. I read what I wrote about Cardassians representing all Germans (P22) and after reading Rhiannon's letter (P30) I realised that what I wrote could be taken the wrong way, so when I wrote that the Cardassians represent the whole of the German people, I meant to say that the Cardassians have good and bad people like any other people we know, just like the Germans, English, French, etc. My mistake was that I chose only the Germans. I did not mean to say that all Germans are bad (as people tend to think about the Cardassians as bad). To all who were offended, sorry.

Re relationships (Sheila, P15) - If a very close friendship between men could be considered being gay, so such a friendship between females could be considered being lesbian? And between a man and woman it would be considered a love affair? I mean, there is no end to such thinking. There can be very strong friendships of all kinds that have nothing to do with sexual attraction, and most people accept them as such. If people see things beyond this, why not, that is their right, but I think that most people know the difference and won't substitute close friendship with actual love. *(Sheila - I think you picked me up wrong, Vered. What Neil*

and I were discussing is the publisher's perception of how people might interpret a close relationship between two men. Between the wars, there were a lot of books - Bulldog Drummond, Doc Savage, a lot of John Buchan's works and Edgar Wallace's (to name a few) which were about the adventures of a group of men who were very close friends, most of them confirmed bachelors, and any women in the story, even occasionally quite strong women, were there only to become the wife of one of the men, and any "romance" was limited to a chaste kiss on the cheek.)

To T'Mara (P43) - Yes, it was a compliment. Sometimes you read a good letter and don't have anything to say about it. I felt that yours was exceptionally good and wanted you to know this.

You have a very good point about each Vulcan being an individual. We seem to forget this. Just like Humans are all different from one another, so are Vulcan (at least they should be) so it may be that each Vulcan chooses his own way of "being a Vulcan". They may all have the capability to mind meld and to conceal emotions, but some may prefer not to mind meld, if possible; each will be able to control his emotions to a different degree (maybe a certain emotion would be harder to conceal); there is no law that one must end every meeting with "Live long and prosper". Vulcans are individuals just like anybody else and must be referred to as such.

To Jason Rorbach (P16) George Takei was supposed to be "promoted" at least a film or two before ST:TUC, and for reasons which I cannot remember at the moment he was not promoted until the 6th movie. This had nothing to do with making Valeris the helm officer. She could just as well have been another bridge officer, maybe in the science department. As Takei had been waiting for his "Promotion" for some time, it was just convenient to promote him and put Valeris as helm officer.

To Kathleen Glancy (P18) - It's not that I believe that there will be another TOS series (sigh) but if you already gave M Barrett's example, then we must remember that

during the movies Chapel became a doctor, and as for her love of "Spockipoo", as you put it, I see no reason why this should be considered a lesser role than that of Lwaxana Troi.

Re Ellison's depiction of young Kirk being out of character - Diane Carey used this in her book *Best Destiny* and I thought it actually explained a lot about Kirk's undisciplined character.

To Jay Stevensen (P23) - Does anyone expect Paramount to act positively at all? :((I couldn't resist, sorry!)

I've only seen a few 4th season DS9 episodes, but am I the only one that feels that maybe Worf's stay on Klingon has caused some regression in his character? It is especially noticeable in *Starship Down* with his treatment of the engineering crew. It seems he has forgotten what it is to work with Humans. He seemed a lot more relaxed in his manner towards the end of TNG. What is going on?

Re Kira's new outfit and shoes - Does Nana Visitor have anything to say about this? Does she mind that Kira is turning more and more into a sex object? Does she prefer it this way or is she just indifferent?

To Michael Flett (P46) - I can imagine that the Borg aren't too worried if one or two ships escape, as they know that they'll assimilate everybody at the end (at least that's what they think). It could also be that just after they finish with the El-Aurians' sector that they went into their regenerating sleep, and that may explain the time lapse. It could be that Guinan was on her way back to her home world when the bad news hit her, and the ship we see consists of the many others like her who were on their way home and found nothing left. As for why the Federation didn't know about the Borg in the 24th century, that is a good case for Mulder and Scully - I guess they didn't want to cause major panic...

• **Sarah Rooke - Live from the Sacred Grove of Minbar**

First, how sad I was to hear that the N/L

was closing down. However, I can understand why, and would like to thank Janet, Sheila and Valerie for the hard work over the years, and wish them all the best for any future projects. You will be missed.

To anyone who's written to me of late and not had a reply - I apologise, but various personal and work commitments have occurred and I suggest everyone try to ring me (01705 341946). Unfortunately these things happen.

If it's of any interest, Taruka and I are hoping to form a new Druidic order based on the ideals of ST (ie IDIC) and B5, and any other sci-fi. Details *should* be in the back of the N/L, but otherwise ring or write to me at Flat 3, 20 St David's Rd, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO5 1QN. I'm hoping the council of British Druid Orders will accept us (in time!). We aim for a dedication to sci-fi and lots of (traditional) Druidic silliness. We're already formulating an initiation ceremony (loosely based on a real one!) but with a very ST flavour. So watch this space! Anyone is welcome to join or enquire.

To White Hawk - Re the IDIC motto, hear hear! Methinks a lot of readers have forgotten this basic premise of ST and fandom. Hey, what about tolerance, peace and understanding for once?

To Dave Styles - Iman was the Tia Maria girl and later married David Bowie. 'Nuff said.

To Rhiannon - Thanks for ringing. I'll try to return the courtesy (soon, I hope)!

To Neil Safi & Mike Sadler - Loved your table at Blackpool. How does one join the Kaferian Apple Club? (Also your 70s look at one of the discos gave me one of the best laughs in ages!)

To James Woodman - try *The Trouble With Tribbles* (one of the funnier episodes) or *The City on the Edge of Forever* for 2 of CT.

To everyone who went to Generations II - Wasn't LN not being there a disappointment. I went specially to see him, as well. Did

anyone have any trouble with the hotels this year? I certainly did with mine and am thinking of complaining to Stargazer about it.

Finally, in case I don't write in IDIC next time I wish everyone please and long life, and leis gach beannachd (Gaelic - Blessings.)

• **Kerry McGuire - Telford, Shropshire**

When I first joined IDIC, the first thing I headed for was the Postbag. It was a wonderful forum for discussion, and (sometimes) heated debate, which is what I loved about it. But it *never* veered towards the aggressive or downright ill-tempered. In the past few issues, though, a person can't even make a statement without someone taking personal offence to what has been said. From other letters that have appeared in IDIC, I'm not the only one to feel this way, which is, in a way a relief. I thought that it was just me reading things that weren't there. But it doesn't make me happy to admit it.

I joined IDIC because I love Star Trek. In all its incarnations. IDIC enabled me to contact other people who felt the same way. It showed me that I wasn't alone out there and gave me optimism. Through it I discovered the world of zines and became aware of some *very* talented writers who reside amongst us fans. For that I'll always be grateful. Friendship was, and still is, an enduring theme in the Trek universe. Because of IDIC I've made a good and true friend (Hi, Jess!) and that's why I'll mourn the loss of such a wonderful newsletter.

Anyway, I'd like to wish all the committee the very best of luck for whatever they decide to do in the future. They'll be sorely missed.

• **Karen Devan - Hornchurch, Essex**

I have been a member of IDIC since N/L 29 and will be really sorry not to be receiving them any more, although I fully respect your reasons for wanting to move on. I shall sadly miss that bimonthly thud as my fat little envelope hit the doormat!

I shall of course miss the fascinating, interesting, educating, rarely boring but sometimes irritating Postbag section; the

great never-ending Kaferian Apple debate (to pip or not to pip?); why did Ardra (Devil's Due) turn into Deanna for the love scene and not Beverly?; did Shatner, or how could Shatner, say "Get a life!"; the difference between Odan and Dax; the limitations of the holodeck; the Empire v the Federation; the wonderful Brent Spiner; the onset of DS9 and Voyager, not to mention TNG. Also we have had many intelligent episode dissections, the comparison between old and new Klingons and Vulcans, the introduction of the Borg and the Cardassians; detailed con reports and cast and crew and episode updates. All in all, the three committee members and their assistants do a fantastic job!

I am pleased I got to meet you at the Albert Hall last year. I shall avoid the obvious LL&P, and instead wish everyone involved in IDIC - readers, writers and producers, all the very best for the future - whatever that may hold.

(PS - I will also miss trying to read Taruka - "what on earth does that say surname???" every two months!)

• **Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh**

On the alleged Captain Sulu series, it sounds so very much what George Takei has said at many cons he would *like* to happen that I frankly don't believe it. I don't mean to suggest he was telling lies - just that he spoke of it as desirable and some over-eager fan heard what (s)he wanted to hear, or some reporter wasn't listening properly, and reported as fact what George had said was a desirable thing to happen. Time will tell. I hope I'm wrong, but I don't think so.

I am astonished that nobody has picked up on the wild tale in a number of papers that William Shatner is having his bathroom decorated as a replica of the Enterprise bridge with a model of the Enterprise itself as the commode. If this is true, then I would agree with one paper's view that he has travelled at warp factor five once too often. I suspect this may have been an April Fool joke which got out of hand, or else a press notice on a stolen sheet of Shatner's notepaper was devised by Leonard Nimoy, taking belated revenge for the bicycle.

To Miriam Moss - I still believe racism (and sexism, religious discrimination, homophobia and other prejudices) lies in a basic instinct that *we* are best, what *we* have is best, and we are going to keep *them* from having it. This does not by any means mean that I believe the eradication of the active promotion of racism et al is impossible, just that it's not going to be easy. We don't have to give way to our basest instincts - we can be educated and shamed into keeping them under control, or our better self can overcome them. After all, the strongest of all instincts is self-preservation. Without it, no race will survive. Self-preservation tells us that you don't run into a burning building, put to sea in a storm, climb a mountain in bad weather - fire brigades, lifeboat crews and mountain rescue teams overcome that instinct all the time - the latter two don't even get paid for doing it.

On Americanisms re Pam Baddeley's letter and Sheila's comment on "dove" for 'dived', because I am a Jane Austen fan, a lot of my friends and relations assume I will like Regency romances. Some I do - Georgette Heyer for one. However (pause to fight unsuccessful battle with anti-American racism) those written by American writers I have dubbed the "Dove and gotten" school. For some reason people seem to dive about a lot in these books and whenever they do its "he dove" or "she dove" - and while I am aware that "gotten" is correct American English, it jars appallingly when it is put in the mouth of an English Earl in the early 19th century.

Taruka, according to David Gerrold, who should know, McCoy wasn't joking and tribbles *are* born pregnant. This was not what he planned, but some studio executive decreed that you couldn't show tribbles ****ing all over the place on prime time, so their reproductive systems were changed to suit his orders.

Well, Sheila, in the antepenultimate newsletter, Stephen Shaw's article, you have produced a typo which almost rivals Scotty's alleged excretion down the engines. Clark and *Louis*? Does Lois Lane know about her rival? [Sheila - Not guilty this time! Stephen

typed his own article. I do, however, plead guilty to not spotting it during proofreading - but then neither did Valerie. In self-defence, I can only say that I outgrew Superman 45 years ago, and don't watch the show.]

Speaking of comics, I gather Marvel has not got the Star Trek concession and is going to do a crossover with their superheroes the X-men. The mind boggles.

• **Valerie Herd - 7459 Nasrullah Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2H 2M4**

I have often wondered if Trekkers are more critical nowadays, or if fans of TOS were just as critical when the original series was in its first run. I know that as one who loves TOS but also enjoys the other series, I've often found fault with episodes of all four Treks - though my fondness for the original tends to cloud my judgement.

I've been producing my own little newsletter for four years now and I can understand how Janet, Sheila and Valerie feel - it can be so demoralising typing up angry letters. Even when all but one are friendly and upbeat, that one angry, critical one can get an editor down. Although I've found most fans realise what "IDIC" means, there are those few who feel they have the right to respond with biting comments, punctuated by four-letter words - people who don't consider the fact that that an editor doesn't particular want to receive abusive, mean-spirited letters (and it never ceases to amaze me that these people expect their letters to be printed as-is, four letter words and all!) Just as a few "bad" fans can colour the opinion of the celebrities who meet them, a few "bad" letters can sap the creative energy of a newsletter editor. IDIC is a *huge* undertaking - just look at all those letters, articles, adverts, etc - it must take an exhausting amount of time to put together, and then there are the labels, subscription reminders, postage etc to contend with. I think the committee deserve medals for eight years of selfless work done in the name of Star Trek.

I haven't noticed any drastic changes in IDIC; I've enjoyed it tremendously. It is a wonderful newsletter, and contrary to some of the criticism I saw in the last issue, I feel it

has a good balance of info for fans of all four series. IDIC has brought us so many interesting and amusing articles, ideas and comments. There has been so much fun. None of the "official" Trek club magazines cater to fans the way IDIC has and does. We're all lucky to have found IDIC and to have taken part in it. However, if it is no longer fun for Janet, Sheila and Valerie, then it has to cease to be. I'm sure a lot of people are writing to say, "Please change your minds, so I won't... though it'd be nice, all the same, if you did! :-)

To Elaine Brown, Edinburgh - For info on how to purchase reprints of Spockanalia, write to Devra Langsam, 627 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11218, USA. She sells reprints at a very reasonable price.

• **Jill Clements - Bexleyheath, Kent**

Well, I'm sitting here in shock. I can't believe that just as I'm about to renew for year 4 and on the 30th anniversary of our common interest, IDIC is coming to an end.

I've contributed occasionally, but can honestly say that when an issue arrives on my mat I'm completely "do not disturb!" until I've read it from cover to cover. There has never been an issue I've not enjoyed and carried around with me just to dip into at work or while travelling.

I've always preferred fan club newsletters to any professional magazine and feel very sad that real, long-term fans could be losing our fan-run newsletters because of the glossy "face of the moment cover" magazines which aren't as much fun or interesting. The money-making companies who run them won't be there to support fans of "cult" programmes when the masses lose interest or the programme makers have milked the "cash cow" dry. If I start a "letter-writing campaign", will you reconsider?

Thank you for the last three years; for being there when I've had an opinion or query. Even when I rang Janet for "just a quick call" when I was desperate for advice on going on the internet and she talked to me patiently for an hour! I'm going to miss you so much, and not only because I'm not in the

situation of having lots of friends I can chat Trek to.

• **Edward Woo - Liverpool**

To Jason Rorbach - I can see Cardassia and the Federation becoming allies in the near future, and the Klingons would not dare take both allies on at the same time - an uneasy peace, but peace at least.

To Dave Styles - You are right in saying that Iman only appeared in ST:VI for the brief fame and nothing else.

To Christopher Howell - The Romulans should have been the main adversary in at least one of the movies, as we have done Klingon culture to death.

To David Williams - Nice line about Kasidy Yates being a Changeling. That would be intriguing, even replacing her temporarily with a double in an episode of DS9.

To the IDIC committee - I am sorry to see the frequencies of IDIC are no longer transmitting, but like you say, 8 years is a lot of time devoted to it. The newsletters have always been terrific and must read when they pass through my letterbox. See you at Contagion! By the way, can we still continue to send our used stamps to you for your guide dogs? [Sheila - Yes.]

To all readers of IDIC - friends, enemies, etc - I shall miss it. Let's hope ST continues for years to come despite Viacom's attitude. At least the BBC will be showing Voyager and DS9 this autumn! With the new ST film we still have something to look forward to.

Years ago I joined one ST fan club; it soon folded. Then another, and that closed. Finally I joined and contributed to IDIC, which will have run 8 years - the longest I have been with you.

What next? Well, my final contribution to IDIC will be a Contagion con report in N/L 48! [Sheila - Remember to keep it down to 2 pages!]

If any readers are stuck on a ST query, or want info that I might be able to help with,

please feel free to contact me at 553 Smithdown Rd, Wavertree, Liverpool, Merseyside, L5 5AF

• **Jennifer Blanchard - Godalming**

Oh no, no, no. I have never read a N/L so good, so big, so often, involving so much commitment... there had to be a limit to how long it could last! Will the committee take a pause and then start a small scale club for Classic Trekkers on a reduced scale? Will there be more zines? *[Sheila - The zines will continue through ScoTpress, at least for the moment, but sales are continuing to fall off - today's fans seem keener on watching than reading - and if they get much lower, it will become completely uneconomical to carry on.]*

I think there are two reasons for the drop in membership; one is the natural fall after the big leap to 1200+ which followed some big publicity, the other reason is the end of TNG. I used to subscribe to TV Zone and leap straight to IDIC's news pages to learn of new TNG episodes; anyone who only liked TNG would be feeling flat when it finished and not interested in other news and comments.

With 4 series and the films, perhaps things are more diverse and not many people like all Trek (I do!) Maybe the clubs will become more specialised - there has been talk of clubs/cons splitting into "new" and "old" Trek. "Oh no, how sad, it must not happen" - but why not? People could concentrate on what they love among people who feel the same, and aren't saying, "Oh, you don't like that, do you?" which is what we already suffer outside fandom.

I think it would be nice if anyone writing to the last Postbag could list the clubs to which they belong, so we can keep track of familiar names?

To James Woodman - Alternative Factor is my least favourite classic episode, but if you give it a chance there are some great episodes after it.

Anyone who still does not like DS9 - stick with it if you can. It took me so long to start liking it, but now I am desperate for more

and having crashed through any "spoiler alerts" I know the way things are developing. At last, a series that develops - I love TNG but it always niggled to know it was 44 minutes devoted to the status quo - eg if Data discovered a relative or started a relationship you know he's be alone again half an hour later.

If I had to sum up DS9 in two words, they could be "Poor Odo!" How will I manage without IDIC's full and reliable news pages?

At least I have the good news that Sulu is to feature in a Voyager episode, Flashback. I can recommend GHT, George Takei's Official Fan Club, to any admirers of Sulu or Classic fans.

I'm hoping there will be a full list of clubs printed in the N/L. I wonder which will be the lucky one to receive a flood of 900 desperate, "homeless" Trekkers?

Good luck to Janet, Sheila and Valerie in the future, and many, many thanks for the pleasure I've had from IDIC N/Ls and zines. They have been the very best.

• **Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent**

To Jean Perrin re loners: I personally think it is fair to say that the kind of people who will want to fly around in space ships will not be the type of people who will want to settle down and have families and ties of friendships. I feel your attack on the characters of ST:TNG (NL46 p52) could just as well be levelled at the characters of Classic Trek.

And following on from that, with reference to a lot of the hostility between various "sorts of Trek fan", I've re-read a lot of old newsletters. It seems to me that a lot of the older, more established fans are very hacked off about the johnny-come-latelys; and are very aggressive about the newcomers to fandom. But I can't find a single rude, hostile or negative comment from anyone to whom this anger might be directed.

To T'Mara re Spock: I'm afraid I'm sticking to what I said. I remain convinced that the perception of what constitutes being Vulcan is something which came about

through fan fiction long after CT stopped. To me Spock never fitted the public perception of Vulcans.

Rip off of the month: New Star Trek videos. Going for £12.99 in most places, they are £10.99 in Tesco's.

• **Brenda Allan - Dawson Creek, Canada**

It was with very much surprise and sadness that I received the latest issue of IDIC. I was not aware that membership had dropped so drastically. I know that I have not had the time to contribute regularly, but I thought that it was still going strong.

I have enjoyed my time with IDIC so much these past 3 years. It is the best Star Trek magazine that I have ever subscribed to -- and great value for the subscription rate. I found that after I had joined IDIC, I didn't need to buy all the other magazines on the newstand shelves, because all the Star Trek tidbits were neatly summarised in IDIC.

I know that it is not feasible to continue to run a fan club when membership is dropping and money is scarce. I cannot think that there will ever be such a club as IDIC ever again .. and it saddens me that it must pass.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the club committee on the excellent job you have all done on this newsletter over the past eight years .. be assured that your efforts were well received .. BRAVO to you all!

So, a chapter in Star Trek history is coming to a close -- it is something that will be remembered fondly by me in years to come, and I will keep the newsletters that I have as a memento of my time with IDIC -- something to look back on ..

• **Elaine McCue - Glasgow**

I was dismayed to learn recently that IDIC is to disband after the October newsletter. I think it will be greatly missed.

I came into fandom because of Janet, Sheila & Valerie. One of them, I think it was Valerie had sneakily inserted flyers for the

club they were then running - STAG - into Star Trek photonovels that my local bookshop was selling. After joining STAG I started going to cons and met loads of new friends and eventually got involved in helping organise the Contagion Star Trek convention. So I have a lot to thank the three of you for.

I cannot blame you for deciding to call it a day. The club must have taken up a great deal of your time and energy and I am sure the change in Star Trek fandom in recent years has probably taken its toll. It definitely is not the same fandom I remember from the early 1980's or even the early 90's. I think many of us long term fans are very dissatisfied at the way things are going. I myself, so much so, that I have decided to curtail my own involvement with fandom in future. My reasons are many, lack of time, boredom, but probably mostly because of the selfish moaners who seem to be everywhere in fandom right now. I am basically fed up hearing this stuff. Paramount/Viacom also seem to be trying to cause a lot of problems for fandom at the moment too.

I hope fandom will recover and perhaps in the future I may view things in a different light.

Let's hope so.

I would like to wish Janet, Sheila & Valerie all the best for the future and say thanks for all the enjoyable reading IDIC has supplied over the years.

• **John Stubley, Boston**

I will be sorry to see IDIC go. It is definitely the best thing that has happened to Fandom in a long while! I wish the committee and everyone else the very best in the future. And so it ends.

I would really like to set up a letterzine myself, but I doubt I will have the time or skills to do it. I am more than willing to lend a hand to anyone thinking of setting one up. I will be in Lincs until September, when I will be moving to work at Hemel Hempstead (Heading south!).

I hope I can meet up with some of the contributors in the future. Once I start this new job I should have enough money to attend conventions again (hooray). With the demise of IDIC (booo) it may be my best chance of sampling the finer side of Fandom!

Wishing you all a long a prosperous life!

• **Roberta Martin - London**

Will there be any chance of fans still be able to have access to information for example cons, fans clubs zines and merchandise other people to write to etc? The commercial and other amateur fan mags are pretty poor as this sort of thing and the other two general fan clubs I have looked either give out no information or very little, or it is just commercial stuff and were unreliable. I think that like other fans I am concerned that things will not be the same unless there is some kind of network when we can get this information. Maybe something we could subscribe to and receive copies of every two months or so, and something that would not involve any hard work for the editor, except for typing up dates and printouts, just containing ads of a few pages etc which will be able to give fans an insight to the fan and amateur side of Star Trek. It need not contain articles or letters which involves a lot of typing and editing.

I now think that the time has probably come for fans to consider setting up individual clubs in order to cater for the particular type of Trek that they like. From the newsletter the main outcry seems to be coming from the OT fans, and there seems to be a lot of them who are feeling very neglected because the people who own the rights to Star Trek are completely ignoring it. William Shatner is not really very much older than Patrick Stewart, so why is he too old? Probably more like too expensive. I think that the TNG actors just happen to be in the right place at the right time. I have had a mixed attitude. I have seen all four series and I think that some of the episodes of TNG were excellent, but that the characters were not really in tune with each other and agree with Vered Gilad, No 45 and Jean Perrin, No 46. A lot of my friends who are not fans say that they liked OT but do not care for TNG

stories, characters etc. On the other hand one person on a radio phone in sneered when I phoned in to talk about the Generations con when I said I liked OT and called it a lot of old hat and said that people will always want to see something new. I retorted and said that without OT he would not have any TNG, DS9, Voyager etc and he admitted that he had not thought about that. People are fans of OT because the characters in it were special; not for the special effects. The TNG fans will be OK because at least they have a film every other year or so to look forward to. All the merchandise in the shops seems to now be catering for DS9 and Voyager. I am just wondering how much longer it will be before the public in general get bored with it. Or is it just putting Star Trek before the names of these programmes enough to sell it. It is all a matter of personal taste in the end. One thing I find tiresome and over the top is some of the hype regarding some of the characters of the later Trek in particular DS9. I have to say that I feel that if I did a survey down any high street, how many people would have heard of any of the characters or actors of DS9, TNG and Voyager? But I am sure that 90% would have heard of Kirk, Spock, Scott etc and know the names Nimoy and Shatner and that it goes without saying that they are legends and will always be associated with Star Trek. I consider myself a science fiction fan, I will watch anything that interests me and that includes Babylon 5 a series which I feel that the characters are special. I would also like to point out for anyone who did not know that the £180 for the Shatner autographs at the Generations Con at the Albert Hall at Easter all went to charity as did all of the fees for the actors autographs.

I have just bought Inside Star Trek by Justman, Solow, I was impressed and it seemed to be an honest account of the era. But I cannot seem to find a copy of Beam Me Up Scotty. I can only gather that it has been delayed and that Mr. Doohan will be touring and signing perhaps. [Valerie - *The Bookseller reports publication delayed until December.*]

I enjoyed Newsletter 46 account of the Generations con at the Albert Hall, I think it

was by Helen White.

• **Penny Robinson, 13 Greenacres, Hemel Hempstead HP2 4LX**

100630.352@compuserve.com

Oh, woe! Only two more IDIC newsletters! And I did so enjoy reading them. I shall be very sorry to see you disappear, although I have every sympathy with your reasons for bringing the club to a close. It must have involved you in a huge amount of work.

Let me say thank you to the IDIC committee for introducing me to fandom proper. (And thank you, Stacey, for introducing me to IDIC!) In my fairly brief membership I've enjoyed the 'family feeling' of the club, arguments notwithstanding. Thanks for a lot of information, a bunch of new penfriends, the impetus to attend my first-ever convention, considerable entertainment, and most of all, an introduction to fanzines.

Does anybody know if there is a "zine readers' zine" out there anywhere? Would anyone else be interested in reading one? Reviews, recommendations, comments, ads, whatever?

Thanks to those of you who replied to me in Issue 46, particularly Vered Gilad for the newsgroup suggestion.

• **Simon Clay - Leeds**

I am very sorry to hear that IDIC will not be continuing. I always look forward to its arrival, and I'll be sorry not to get any more. Anyway, a quick plug for local clubs - Leeds Starfleet is (surprisingly) in Leeds, and has all videos, occasional competitions and lots of talk. It meets at Centenary House, near the MGM cinema, on the second Sunday of each month.

With regard to the comments on Tuvok's Pon Farr or lack thereof. Perhaps Berman and co. will recover the spirit that allowed Classic Trek to screen the first inter-racial kiss. They could do some really powerful storylines with it, any time in the next six seasons. I suspect, however, that they'll duck the issue.

Recently, there's been some discussion about time travel, so I thought I'd add my thoughts. Imagine a wormhole, with its ends separated in space by a distance of one light second, and in time by one second. Send a single photon into the 'future' end of the wormhole, and watch it come out of the other end. It now exists *twice* for the one second after it leaves the 'past' end of the wormhole. Now set it up so that the photon leaves the 'past' end, travels through space for one second, and then re-enters the 'future' end of the wormhole. It will continue to loop infinitely. Any observer will therefore see an infinite number of photons in this portion of space. If time travel is allowed, it is effectively possible to generate infinite energy out of nowhere. That's why I don't like time travel stories.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl, re tribble genetics. Perhaps the colour of a tribble is not determined by its genetic code. Human fingerprints aren't. Perhaps you could keep a record of all tribbles by their colours alone. Imagine a tribble criminal database. Brings a new meaning to the term the fuzz...

To David Williams, re Voyager. It's falling apart because somebody flung it through a seventy thousand light year hop. I think that probably invalidates the warranty.

To Jean Perrin - I think you're a little unfair to the TNG crew. While I can't fault you on the family side of things, the relationships are I think a little better than you say. Picard has friends other than Riker - Prof. Galen (I think that's right, the one from The Chase), Vash, Phillipa Louvois. He seems to know most of the Starfleet Captains, and be on good terms with most of the Admirals. Data does understand the concept of friendship - see Legacy and Time's Arrow. His definition is perfect, even if couched in slightly computerese terms. As for Beverly, perhaps she isn't after Picard - she turns him down in Attached. As for Worf, he's a Klingon, and they have different standards, but he's friends with Riker - see the episode with the hermaphrodites whose name I can't remember.

• Rhiannon, USS Invention, Kuhstr. 35, 12555 Langenberg, Germany

Hello everybody, it's me once again. First of all, I would like to say that "the ladies" did a great job, - I can imagine running IDIC is not only fun but also a lot of work. Also, I can understand your decision.

To anyone who is now looking for another club: The USS Invention is small, but growing, its newsletter is published in German and usually contains info, articles and stories dealing with each of the StarTrek series. If you like writing articles, discussing or writing short stories, if you don't mind the nl. not looking all that professional (We are learning it!) why not write to me for further info?! IRC or stamps would be nice.

To all the nitpickers among us - Isn't Klingon blood supposed to be sort of purple? Take a close look at the Klingon commander's blood when he cuts his hand in WOTW and tell me what colour that is...!

To Gul Melset - Indeed, heritage can be important, but hey, Siddig only changed his name, not his heritage or personality.

To Catherine Hill - About DS9 and B5 I must say they are very different from each other, if you ask me, that is. I like both. I admit I don't quite see why one would feel the need to draw a close comparison between the two - just because they are stations and not ships? (Well, maybe I just haven't seen enough of B5 yet, maybe there are more similarities...)

To Terese Whaley - liked your Postbag-Blues.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - Now wait a minute - what was that about sexism and racism? I definitely cannot agree with you. An instinct is an innate reaction to a natural stimulus, if I am not mistaken. So, saying sexism is an instinct would be the same as saying there is a gene for chauvinist behaviour. (Sorry Ma'am, can't help it, it's in my genes!) Does not sound too plausible to me... In fact I would like to use this opportunity to correct what I said two or three nls ago: I no longer think there is any

such thing as "natural fear of the unknown" - especially not in children. In fact, just the opposite seems to be the case. The innate curiosity is what enables a child to approach even the unknown without fear. I am convinced that the behaviour one person displays towards another, be it now same or different race, sex or belief, is learned, not innate. You can teach a child to show respect for others or you can teach it to look down on / be afraid of people who are different. So, if you ask me, no innate, genetic or whatsoever natural basis can be found for sexism or racism. The way you said that about both being instincts made it sound as if that was self-evident to you. I would (honestly!) be interested in knowing what makes you feel that way. Please explain yourself, if you like.

I am getting a little excited as September - and with it my very first convention - is coming closer... I will try to write at least a few lines about it then, although I don't seem to be too talented when it comes to writing articles. By the way, I liked yours about Generations 2, Helen White.

I thought there were many ST-fans in England, especially in the London- area (don't ask me why!!!), so when I was in London for 4 days in May I wore my IDIC badge (the new ones look great!) clearly visible, thinking that if I don't see anyone maybe somebody would see me... Well, Pustekuchen! To all of you who saw me (if any) - Shame on you for not saying one word. I'm not as dangerous as I look, y'know! :-)

One last thing before I pen off - Anyone who'd like to drop me a line, feel free to do so. It might take me some time to write back, but I should like to get to know some more of IDICs members.

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Miriam Moss - Re Troi. Gene deliberately gave her not-quite-dependable empathy. As it stands, an alien ship approaches, Picard hails, alien replies, Troi reports "I sense some tension, but it may be that he is uncertain of our motives" and then partway through the story it transpires that the aliens are treacherous and unfriendly and Picard has to pull out all the stops to defeat

them. Given Troi with perfect telepathy, alien ship approaches, Picard hails, alien replies, Troi reports, "Don't trust him, Captain. He's completely treacherous." Picard reacts instantly, end of story. It wasn't sexist - Spock (and by extension, Tuvok) was a touch telepath, probably for much the same reason. I don't watch B5 (it never "grabbed" me) but I'd suspect that the telepaths in it have some sort of restriction too, for the same reason?

To Jean Sloan - Re criticism of stories. You're right, any review is completely subjective. I've reviewed the Trek novels, and sometimes been less than kind, but those are professional writers and professional editors, and it's their job - and I don't expect serious mistakes in the development and presentation of a professionally presented story any more than I expect a plumber to make a serious mistake when repairing a burst pipe. If I, as an amateur, reach for a mental red pen while I'm reading, there has to be *something* seriously wrong with a novel. Amateur writers, especially those writing in media universes, tend to look at what they are writing in a slightly different way. As far as what a writer has intended is concerned, I remember many years ago a pretty critical review of one of my stories from an American (and I don't even remember now what story it was - the comments may have come from the editor I sent the story to); and what was criticised as faulty was *exactly what I had set out to do in the story!* (Which actually meant I had succeeded in what I did, but the person commenting had completely missed the point.)

Re the Romulans and Spock now living on Romulus - why bother with DNA testing to identify the dissidents? The way the physical appearance of the Romulans was changed between TOS and TNG, all the Romulan authorities needed to do, to identify a Vulcan, was look at everyone's faces! :-)

• **Maria Woodward - Ashcroft, East St, Westbourne, Nr Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH**

I was so sad to hear you are closing the newsletter down. Over the past years I have made many friends though IDIC and have been to many conventions, through you.

If there is anyone who would care to write to me, my address is above.

If anyone still feels like they were ripped off by Stargazer with their party, I wrote them a letter; this is the reply I got back.

"We are not refunding the price of the tickets because in a nutshell that money paid for the exclusive hire of part of the venue. However, we are making some recompense by way of issuing all party-goers (in the very near future) with a special limited edition pin. The pin is worth at least the price of the ticket, will be a very collectible item and is far superior to the party pack pin that was to be issued; also a contact name will be made known to you so that you can apply for the T-shirt as promised, directly from Budweiser, the other promoter.

"As mentioned above, the price of the ticket reflected the exclusive hire of part of the venue, although we feel value was not given for money by the venue. Certainly no profit was expected or gained by Stargazer Productions. We now know the venue used that evening as a special promotion for their regulars; thus allowing them in for a much reduced price. Our party-goers it seems were subsidising this promotion. We were not advised of this prior to the arrangement, and feel, too, it was a rip-off!

"The autograph session tickets were to be "first come, first served", but on Saturday Health and Safety people (Westminster Council) advised us this could not be so, as it would cause congestion at Door 6.

"Next Convention is on 7th and 8th December, to tie in with the movie."

Did anyone else have a good time at Warp 2, like I did?

I wish everyone all the best for the future. Incidentally, does anyone know any other good newsletter? I really don't wish to join the Official Fan Club.

• **Anike Bissinger - Germany**

I am very sad that you decided to put out only two more newsletters. Although I was

only an IDIC member for 3 years, IDIC was always a special newsletter to me, and I will surely miss it. What I particularly loved was the postbag and the many interesting and controversial discussions with fellow fans, which until now I have not found in any other fan club. I want to say thank you to the committee for all the hard work they put in during all the years of the existence of the club, for the fantastic newsletter and for bringing so many people together.

I must admit that I'm really not too enthused about reading that yet another series is planned, even if it is starring Captain Sulu. ST is slowly reaching overkill, and I think two series on the air at the moment and one on the silver screen are enough for the moment! Instead of adding yet another piece to the franchise, the dear producers should better look after the quality of the ones currently in production.

And what's more - as much as I love George and Captain Sulu, I must admit that I really wouldn't be too interested in a Sulu TV series, at least not at the moment.

To Jean Perrin re aliens being out there. Maybe the aliens are doing something similar to what the Federation does in Who Watches the Watchers - just observing and trying to learn more about our culture.

To Bianca ter Morsche re the Klingons' behaviour in WOTW - I never did think of the Klingons as logical beings - and besides, "only a Klingon can understand a Klingon", so their attack on Cardassia may seem unreasonable to us, but they surely had their reasons. And again, I can only refer to world politics. The nuclear situation we had for so many years with the former USSR doesn't sound logical to me, either.

About Voyager - In having seen a couple of second season episodes till now, I completely agree; at the moment I feel the series does have a couple of logical problems, and the Kazon are only one of them; why are they still meeting them? I mean, flying two years in a straight line, say at warp 5, to the Alpha Quadrant, they should have left Kazon space behind by now. And after seeing

Maneuvers, I really wondered how Seska managed to arrive on that station *before* Voyager - she must have pursued them from the start, and keep on pursuing them, if she is to make another appearance. What's more, Cold Fire was labelled as being 10 months after the events of The Caretaker, but in Tattoo, the episode before Cold Fire, we saw that Ensign again, who said in an early second season episode that the father of her child is stationed on DS9. Something's very wrong with the time factor here, or since when do Humans have a pregnancy duration of 10 months or more????

I could go on and on - and that's my problem with Voyager. Usually I really like the stories and the episodes, but I can't help but get angry at all the contradictions I never cease to find. The way I see it, the Voyager writing and production team should seriously reconsider their concept! I mean, this series is no place for recurring aliens as DS9 - or even TNG - is!

To Michael Flett - Re Gowron and Worf being friends. In Redemption, Worf fought on Gowron's side, so Gowron at least had to consider Worf as an ally - until the events of WOTW, of course.

• **T'Mara and the Prosbear - Kellinggasse 8/
26, A-1150 Vienna, Austria**

We are shocked! My first thought upon reading the editorial of N/L 46 was: So Paramount does not have to close down the fan-run clubs, we do it ourselves! We are no longer interested, we no longer care, we do not renew... Is this really true? Reading the Postbag I have always had the impression that there are lots of people who feel like I do, who still love Star Trek (in all its incarnations), who will never lose interest just because this time around there is no info on one particular actor/character/show/aspect of the show or whatever, because they like the essence, the meaning, the philosophy of Star Trek. Isn't it possible that dropping renewals and enquiries are due rather to inflation, unemployment etc than to lack of interest? *[Sheila - This is possible, but when a club is already working to a very tight budget, any major drop in income is very serious.]*

The article about the financial problems of the Warp Two con just added to that bad feeling: not enough interest in such an event (or lack of money) makes it unprofitable, therefore no more fan-run cons? Are we losing our cons, too, after losing the very best fan-run club? In my opinion, though, the Generations II con in London just three weeks before the May con must have been bigger competition than Wolf 359 in June, so this time the professionally organised event triumphed over the fan-run one.

Anyway, I have put my full address on this submission, since I'd really appreciate staying in touch with everybody who wants to discuss Star Trek (in any form) with me. I am especially interested in getting in touch with all you fans of the Vulcan race (especially fans of Spock and Tuvok). The Prosbear loves getting mail and we even eventually manage to reply!

• **Anne-Marie Flowers- Glasgow**

I'm sure we were all shocked and saddened by the news that IDIC is to "cease trading". I, for one, will sorely miss the N/L - as far as I am concerned it is irreplaceable. I would gladly pay double but, unfortunately, it looks as if cash flow isn't the only, or even the main, problem. If begging and pleading will help the committee to change their minds, then I hereby beg and plead! I am going to be lost without the N/L - I agree with the comment in the editorial that, while information on upcoming episodes and merchandise may be readily available, there is nowhere else with anything like the Postbag. I will also miss the zine and con ads and I fear I shall have no option but to invest in a modem!

Re my own letter in N/L 46 - I'm sure you all noticed my mistake - I mean secularism, not sectarianism.

To Miriam Moss - I, too, prefer the "morality tale" type of ST story and this season I have been particularly impressed with Hard Time and Sons of Mogh in DS9 and Deadlock and Tuvix in Voyager. It was wonderful to see Janeway making some really hard choices in these episodes. Going back to DS9, in Rejoined we were educated

on Trill morals and discovered that it is unacceptable for a symbiont to continue a sexual liaison once either party has been transplanted into a new host. I realise these rules were meant to apply to Trill/Trill relationships, but I wonder what the reaction would have been to Odan's "carrying on" with Beverly?

Re Kira's heels: At Warp II, Nana said the producers were worried that she looked too small (she is 5'8") and suggested the heels to make her look taller - it had nothing to do with bimbo-ing.

To James Woodman - I was reading your comments on The Return (which, surprisingly, I enjoyed very much) when it suddenly occurred to me - what if the Borg entered the Nexus and used it in the same way as Kirk and Picard, ie to defeat their enemies? Now that's what I call frightening!

In the TNG episode Where No One Has Gone Before, the Enterprise ends up in a galaxy 2,700,000 light years from home. Data duly sends a subspace message and says it will take 51 years, 10 months to get to Federation space. Using this equation, I calculate that a message sent from Voyager should have reached Starfleet in a little over a year, and I reckon they should be getting a reply some time soon!

Finally, I don't know of any other Star Trek club which comes close to IDIC, but Patrick Stewart fans I can recommend PSAS, which publishes a quarterly newsletter with info on what the man is up to, reviews of his work, con reports etc. They also try to organise social activities so that fans can meet and chat. I've only just joined, but I have to say it looks good.

• **Peter Scarisbrick, 15 Crediton Avenue, Southport, Merseyside PR9 9TP**

I heard the thud on the carpet, saw the envelope, and my spirits rose knowing what was within. My spirits sank when I read that newsletter 48 is to be the last.

I joined only last year (N/L 39) following a spiritual visit to the Star Trek exhibition in Edinburgh. I did not know what to expect

from IDIC but when I received that first newsletter, it was like opening a door at the end of a corridor to find a large room full of light and colour. People individually and in groups having interesting conversations. So far I have just stood quietly and listened.

Of late there has been family disharmony in this corner of the universe. I have been a fan of OST since the beginning, embraced TNG, extended that embrace to include DS9 and now have stretched my arms towards VOY. Four pockets of existence in the Star Trek universe, each with its own individuality. So sad that some people reject one or more in favour of another instead of being grateful that all exist. The spirit of Star Trek is to rise above such pettiness. It seems we still have some way to go.....

I have found one solution to getting people to talk to you at conventions. Just wear your IDIC badge with pride; nice meeting you, Jean.

I am sorry that I missed so much of IDIC's life. I am just glad that I shared some of it. Thank you Janet, Sheila, Valerie and all. Live long and prosper. And, if Doctor Who can regenerate after several years, maybe we will meet again.

• **Stephen Shaw - Stockport, Cheshire**

AAAAGH. No more Idic.... very well understand your feelings and decision. I am a member of a Computer group of which I was a founder member back in '82. Membership peaked at 4000 (causing problems) and rapidly declined to 800 (causing more problems). My involvement has changed significantly over the years from contributing member to holding three official positions(!) which led to burn out and we are now back to contributing member. The group has had its up and downs, presently quite "up" although only about a hundred members.

To keep IDIC going for 8 years on your (plural) own is a significant labour of love, and IDIC has its place in the history of both UK and International trekdom. Where now for fans who want to discuss issues? Look forward to seeing some observations from members. Local groups can be good places

for discussion, but the national and international forum of IDIC made it truly live up to its name!

Fanzines.... I found ELE-94 quite a difficult read - possibly the hardest fanzine to get into ever, mostly due to the (to me) unfinished nature of the contents, and a remarkable number of typos, some of which reversed the sense of sentences, and some of which were quite funny! However on to IDIC Log 19, surely one of the finest zines for some time, one of those books that are so good you start reading it and carry on to the end regardless. The stories were original, well written, and the rewrite of Generations by Ms Comben was just what I needed to read. Two recent zines which produced in me quite different reactions at both extremes! For the cost, I continue to regard fanzines as being of significant value, being both entertaining, and adding to my enjoyment and understanding of the wonderful world of Trek.

The final episode in the trilogy by Ms Comtet is most welcome - the storyline is original and excellently set out - and even if earlier volumes are out of print, you don't need to have read them to enjoy the latest volume. If you like Spock/ Vulcan stories, this is an essential read.

As IDIC is drawing to an end, it is also appropriate to record one of my favourite fanzines of all time - The Crack in the Mirror by Sheila Clark, a mirror universe story of great power and originality - very much enjoyed. *[Sheila -Thank you.]*

To Sheila re Tuvok... The part of Tuvok was originally designed for a much OLDER Vulcan, past the stage of Pon Farr. Then Tim Russ arrived, an actor who walked into the part despite his youth. They could have written the Vulcan out, or kept Russ and pretended he was much much older... not an easy choice... well I think we can be glad he got the part even if due to some ailment he has passed beyond Pon Farr at a rather early age!

To Helen Cakebread re Devil in the Dark- during the shooting of this episode Shatner

received telephone news of his father's death, but rather than disrupt the program continued with the shoot. The emotions you see portrayed are quite authentic.

To Vered Gilad re sex with an alien... Perhaps not so safe. Just before reading your letter I heard on radio 4 of some success in transplanting the precursor cells for sperm between species, such that a mouse could produce human sperm. Of course there would have to be a donor, but it would no longer be safe to consider appearances so much...

To Helen White / Scotpress. As a collector of cross over stories perhaps I could request a commission for a Famous 5 treatment of Voyager? Absolutely spot on Helen. Now I have to watch Voyager WITHOUT thinking of the Famous Five (sigh!).

Dark Trek.... Anyone else notice that DS9 has made Trek history with two videos from the third season being awarded 12 certificates? (Not for sale to anyone under 12 for overseas readers). That's fairly dark. One of these episodes was "Reunion" - very nicely handled. HOWEVER- unlike TOS Plato's Children with the first interracial kiss - Reunion has caused some genuine upset with a number of US viewers. Take a look at the two episodes side by side - the kiss in Reunion was by no means as subtle as in Plato's Children, which was very carefully shot! Indeed the kiss in Reunion was just a mite protracted if the issue is considered to be sensitive. Perhaps the current DS9 team have lost track of sensitivity a little? The pages of IDIC seem to suggest a generalised reduction in the concept sometimes... :-) :-) :-)

The fall in Trek fandom seems to have been fairly sudden and wide spread, with reports of big drops in US Convention attendance. The end of TNG caused this? I have a very low number registration for Wolf 359 May 1997, and hope to NOT be the only one there (please!). Not seen it mentioned in IDIC but the May 97 Trek Convention is in Blackpool (hopefully...). *[Janet - we haven't been sent any details yet, but I found some on the Internet.]*

• Stephen Daniels - Edinburgh
101571.3117@compuserve.com

First of all a big thank you to all on the committee, and the committee assistants today, and over the years of IDIC. You have produced a truly unique and wonderful newsletter which is there for one reason only - the fans. We will all be lucky to find another newsletter half as good as this one. Best wishes to you all in your new found (or rediscovered!) freedom.

I was pleased to read that Frakes will be bringing back some of the family feeling to the next film - that was definitely missing in the abysmal Generations. I heard somewhere that there will be a Borg "Queen" in the film, that reminded me of the fact that originally the Borg were to be a race of insects (alas budget dictated otherwise). My only gripe so far is that the Bridge of the Enterprise-E seems to be a little bit small and cluttered. Oh yes, and the uniforms seem a little dull (almost all grey/black).

To Margot Sykes (n46 p27) - I too didn't feel much for the cast of DS9 at the start, but stick with it. I soon came round to them (well, it took about a year). What I think the problem was was that I was so comfortable with TNG that I just wasn't interested in anything else. Now TNG has gone from terrestrial television, you might start to get into DS9 (if and when it returns).

To Alan Stephen (n46 p27) - True, good special effects don't make the movie, but they are certainly the icing on the cake (and what is a cake without icing). Take, for example, 2001 A Space Odyssey, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, the Star Wars trilogy, Aliens) and so on...

To Miriam Moss (n46 p20) - Thank you for that hilarious letter - I haven't laughed so much in ages!!

To Edward Woo (n46 p33) - I find the thought of aliens arriving on Earth quite frightening - I mean what if they are anything like humans, or (heaven help) - worse!

Has anyone who didn't like Voyager at

the start come round yet? If so, can you tell me how you did it. I'm afraid I can't see any vast improvements yet.

See you all in the last IDIC!

• Irena Hradecka, Premyslovska 33, Praha 3, 130 00 Czech

Does anyone know about a ST fan club similar to IDIC? That is an international one, issuing newsletters, and covering all forms of ST? If you do, would you be so kind as to let me know its address either through the postbag or sending it to my above mentioned address. Thank you in advance.

• Helen White, Southbourne, Bessels Way, Blewbury, Oxon, OX11 9NJ

To James Woodman - I LOVE Original Trek, and out of 79 episodes my least favourite is The Omega Glory, *very* closely followed by The Alternative Factor - enough said! The Way to Eden is also really quite dreadful, but there are heaps of wonderful episodes, so don't give up on the series yet; I particularly recommend City on the Edge of Forever, This Side of Paradise, Journey to Babel, Amok Time, Operation: Annihilate! (this last one is rather silly in some ways but I adore it). Not that I'm biased in favour of him or anything, but these do happen to feature Spock rather heavily

To Michael Flett and other non-computer-speakers - I'll explain Format c: in Janet and John language, and apologies to anyone whom I inadvertently patronise thereby. First, a repeat of the joke for them as missed it: why is Spock better than Data? Telling Spock to Format c: has no effect.

Look John, look. See the computer. See the computer run. Oh sorry, I forgot myself for a moment there. Erm.... your average computer contains at least two things called Drives, which are places where information exchange takes place. The main one, which you might call the computer's brain, is always called the c: drive (also known as the hard drive or hard disk). This is where the computer keeps all its programs, whether they be games, word processors, spreadsheets, whatever. This is also the place where it keeps its instructions on how to start

itself up and get going of a morning, so to speak, and if you lose this information you are stuck; it won't have a clue what to do and will sit there blubbing to itself. The second drive is the one into which you insert the things called floppy disks, which *aren't* floppy at all, as a matter of interest. This one is generally called drive a:. Floppy disks are where you store programs that you don't want cluttering up your c:drive, or stuff that you want to transfer from your computer to another (e.g. if you're sending postbag letters to Janet on disk). In order to put stuff (technical term - files) onto a disk, you have to format it (aha!), which just means that the computer lays down little patterns on it a bit like a map so that it can keep track of everything. When you get a new disk, you need to format it so that you can use it (OK, you can get pre-formatted ones, but that won't help my explanation). One way to format it is to insert it into the relevant drive (a: in this case, if you remember) and type the words, "Format a:". This instructs the computer to format the disk that you have just put in that drive (clever, eh?). It also tells the computer to erase the disk; formatting it will overwrite anything already on there. Formatting can thus be used as a 'quick-erase' method if you have a disk full of stuff that you no longer want/ need. So, guess what happens if you type, "Format c: "? Yep, your computer obediently lays down a lovely new map all over the top of its getting-up-in-the-morning instructions and erases them, along with all the other goodies on the drive. You have a BIG problem.... Yes, it's Spock's Brain II! "The computer.... its brain.... it's.... gone!" Unlike Captain Kirk, however, you cannot zoom off and retrieve said brain from some distant planet; best not ever to type Format c: then, really.

Now, we all know that Data has a positronic brain, which is basically a kind of computer. If you were to pretend that it was a twentieth century computer in there, telling him "Format c:" would really be a *silly thing* to do. "Yes Captain....phut zap non-system disk error...."

I hope the joke's still funny after all that!

Re: Sheila's article on page 59 ('Why

Edit?') - I read a story recently which was fetched off the Internet by a pal of mine and passed on to me. If ever there was an illustration of Sheila's reasons, this is it. Dreadful grammar, *lots* of bad spellings and actually it's a load of twaddle anyway! I would quote from it but a) it was posted anonymously (!) so I can't ask permission, and b) it's an adult story and this is a family n/l. However, I can tell you that it's a 'narrated by Kira' story and at one point she remembers being 'rapped' by Cardassians..... I read it with another pal and we were crying with laughter over it.

• **Marcia Stanislawski - Israel**

Hi, welcome to another newsletter... A pity that after the next one there won't be any more newsletters to be welcomed to. It makes me feel sad, but as we all know, all good things come to an end...

I really felt that in the last N/L most members were waving their white flags and saying enough to the pointless bickering that seemed to be going on here for some time, but I guess that it was just too little, too late.

To Bill McClure - Where were you last N/L? Maybe this will come as a surprise to you, but I missed you! Hope I can find you in these pages...

Has anyone seen this year's "MTV's Movie Awards"? They had William Shatner doing a parody of the movie "Seven", in which he played all three main characters (the two cops and the killer). The veteran cop was Capt. Kirk, the rookie was T.J. Hooker and the killer was the host of "Rescue 911". Then an Orion girl brings them the box with the head inside... and it's Bill's head! (and of course Capt. Kirk kisses the Orion girl!). They also had Patrick Stewart presenting the "Life Achievement Award" ... to Godzilla!!!

To David Williams - I too have suspicions about Cassidy Yates being a changeling; that would be a really hard blow for Sisko, don't you think? As for Nana Visitor and Alexander Siddig, I think they make a beautiful couple. I wish them all the happiness they can get, and more!!

• **Ann Verschuieren - Lageweg 15, 4589 KT Ossensisse, Netherlands**

I'd like to thank the committee and the members for the great newsletters I received during the last two years. I've always enjoyed the newsletter very much, and I will miss the magazine deeply.

It is wrong to believe that, as mentioned in previous newsletters, younger people are not interested in CT. There are definitely young people who love CT. I'm still in my teens (at least for another year) and CT has always been very important to me. I really enjoy watching the show and CT has never been old-fashioned to me. In fact, I often prefer series/movies/songs made in the 60s to those made in the 90s. I regret that I've never known fandom in its early stages, but I'm grateful that so many years after ST was first aired. I was still given the chance to get to know this wonderful series, which helps me when I feel sad and lonely.

My favourite actor is William Shatner and for years I've been searching for the name of a series he played in. Unfortunately, I only remember that the character he played in this series was blind and that the story had something to do with the Bible. Is there any one who knows what the name of this series could be?

I would also be very happy if someone could tell me where to find the film The Brothers Karamazov.

Are there any Italian members in IDIC? I'm studying Italian and I would love to write with Italian ST fans.

• **Catherine Hill - 41 Westwoods Hollow, Burntwood, Staffs WS7 9AT**

email - 101736.3260@compuserve.com

Anyone who wants to write or email me, please do.

Firstly I want to say how shocked and upset I was to hear about IDIC's closure. It is such a shame and the club will be a definite loss to fandom. I have made so many great friends through IDIC (Hi, Les, Penny, Ben, Teresa, Jessie!) and have had such a fun three years as a member. I'll be really sad to see it

go. I for one still enjoy the newsletters as much as I've ever done and believe they provide a place for us all to share and accept everyone's opinions. I want to apologise for anything I've ever said that may have sounded negative and/or offended people in my letters.

I want to make one final plea to the committee - PLEASE don't shut IDIC!!!! I get all - or most - of my Trek updates from here as well as feeling like I belong to a family of Trekkers who've accepted, supported and encouraged me to carry on Trekking and the hell with what anyone thinks of you! :-)! I know you've made a decision and if I really can't persuade you to change your minds then I just want to say a really huge, tremendous, fantastic thank you to you all - Janet, Sheila, Valerie, Helen, Jean and anyone else involved. Thanks with putting up with me these past three years and thanks for putting out the greatest newsletter around! You're all the best and I wish you luck with whatever you're going to do in the future. Live long and prosper to everyone, and Keep on Trekkin' in IDIC!

• **Harold Raitt - Chichester**

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the IDIC committee for having produced such a high quality magazine for so many years, more regularly and more accurately than many professional publications.

Finally we are able to close the long-running Harlan Ellison dispute. I recently purchased *Inside Star Trek* in which a whole chapter of the book is devoted to Mr Ellison. Although I realise that any book cannot be wholly relied upon due to personal biases, Solow and Justman do seem to deal quite fairly with everyone. Ellison wrote a great script, but one which was economically and serially impossible to film. The Genes and other staff writers on first season *Trek* did the only thing they could have done - rewrite the episode into the best one possible. Ellison's following antics can be termed as nothing other than arrogant and rude. His behaviour at 1967's Writers' Guild Award Dinner, where he insulted the very people who had enabled his episode to become so widely known, and subsequent events, will do little to establish

Ellison in the annals of diplomacy.

To Miriam Moss - I believe I am correct in saying that Troi is an empath rather than a telepath because greater powers such as those visible in the pilot were deemed likely to complicate plotlines. If you think about this, having a full telepath on the bridge would cause severe story problems, a la the warp speed limit, as the telepathic power would have to be constantly broken to enable suspense in a story. On your second point, I feel that you are right in saying that *Trek* fails to be as progressive as it could be. Surely the future holds a fifty-fifty male to female ratio in the workplace, something not yet met by *Trek*. As a sideline, a fascinating aspect of Justman and Solow's book is that, contrary to previously established behind the scenes mythology, NBC actually promoted sex and race equality, as shown in memos from Mort Werner, NBC V-P.

To John Wigley, appropriately named as regards my point the bald tradition of *Star Trek* captains always amuses me. The uncanny thing is that the true story behind Genevieve Bujold's departure from *Star Trek: Voyager* actually involved her refusal to wear a wig, when no such clause was included in her contract. (I always failed to see how anyone could believe season actor like Bujold, who had done series TV before, could not "cope with the schedule".)

To Lesley Arrowsmith - I think that the number of actors (including Whoopi Goldberg, Christian Slater, Robin Williams) who *ask* to be on *Star Trek* is a profound statement to the greatness of the show. It often surprises and reforms my cynical anti-*Trek* friends!

To Helen White - I love the Blyton-esque *Voyager* idea, potential there for a full-length skit, I think.

To Annike Bissinger - I wholeheartedly agree that one of *Trek*'s strongest ways of addressing contemporary "problems" such as homosexuality and racism is by not having to address them at all.

To Marcia Stanislawski - Re changes in

Gene's universe. I agree, and I would quote Tsiolkovsky, "The Earth is the cradle of the mind, but one cannot remain in the cradle forever". Nevertheless, we must remember that the Earth was what shaped our existence, and that the principles and ethics of that experience should only be improved on, and not degenerated. Where peace exists, as I'm sure you will agree from your Israeli viewpoint, this peace should not be abandoned for petty reasons, as to do this constitutes an immense regression. I am sure you see my point as regards the Star Trek universe.

Despite the fact that I have seen very little of Voyager, there is one point that does annoy me. If the USS Voyager is truly heading for home, surely it should not meet up with recurring characters from the Gamma Quadrant more than once, and definitely not with specific characters, since this would require them to be constantly heading towards the Federation, too. I feel that the creation of the Kazon as a recurring race spoiled a valuable chance for Voyager to completely evade the staidness that many other IDIC readers feel has developed with such races as the Klingons.

Regarding the struggle to find a parallel for Cardassians and Bajorans: I would agree with Berman on this, that this situation, and other similar ones, are not based on any particular event, but rather on aspects unfortunately familiar to all periods, past, present and future, of human history.

• **Jay Stevensen - Essex**

So IDIC is to close? But is it really a surprise? Even as a relatively new member (about three years) I've noticed more niggles - and much less fun - in the N/Ls recently. I admit to being a Classic fan, and maybe I'm biased (all right - I am!) but I'm sure the lightness started to fade when Classic input to IDIC began to drop.

Fandom is obviously changing - there were plenty of valid points about the reasons in N/L 46 - and it also seems to be the victim of Trek's success... the "plastic" that Leonard Nimoy saw creeping into the 70s US cons and turning them into "sad rip-off affairs"

certainly seems to be creeping up on us as well. (Dave Styles might claim that it's already overtaken him?)

What of the future? Will we split into more specialised groups? And if we do, is it really such a bad thing - even for Classic Trekkers, who know that we're very unlikely to see "our crew" in action again? Fans of other cult TV shows (long gone and never to return) still have fun.

To Kathleen Glancy (P19) - My sentiments exactly on Leonard Nimoy's proposed plotline for his novel. Aliens who think we're models of community living? Haven't they watched us? Watched the news on TV? Read the newspapers? I really think Leonard had his rose coloured spectacles on when he thought this one up!

And to all you TNG fans out there - maybe I can't count, or I lost a few weeks "a la X-files" somewhere, but surely, surely the BBC hasn't shown us *all* the Next Gen episodes? So how come they're cutting us off now, just when I'm getting used to these characters? To make way for Voyager (apparently due on our screens in August)? Don't they realise that fans can't have too much good sci-fi...? *[Janet - I think if you check the back newsletters you will find that BBC2 have shown them all except High Ground.]*

• **Christopher Howell, Flat 2, 47 Barras Lane, Coventry, West Midlands, CV1 3BU**

If anyone can recommend any other IDIC-style newsletters or social groups in the West Midlands area I would be most grateful.

To White Hawk and T'Mara - Agreed - The Vulcan's attitude to the Dominion threat does seem logical, but for the first time in Trek history the Alpha Quadrant has an enemy with no face. Even if the Klingons joined forces with everyone else to create an alliance, I can't see the Founders allowing it to last for long. It wouldn't be too hard for a Changeling to destroy an Alpha Quadrant defence pact from within. For example, they could easily plant a bomb of Romulan design in Gowron's quarters to set old adversaries at each others throats again, while the

Jem Hadar invade.

As for the Klingons - Imagine you're a young Warrior, you've had stories of battles drilled into your head, you've gone through years of combat training and numerous ceremonies, hoping that one day *you* will die with honor, and for what? To serve gagh on DS9? (*Melora*). Even during TNG, we've seen Klingons who thought that the Empire had become too 'soft', so perhaps the treaty being broken was just a matter of time. Fear of the Dominion has given the Klingons an opportunity too hard to resist.

Finding peaceful solutions to a problem is better than resorting to violence. But watching the Federation trying to achieve peace in dangerous times is a lot more interesting than keeping the peace during peaceful times. I think sometimes we need to be reminded just how thin the line between peace and war can be, so when the fighting over everyone re-doubles their efforts to keep the peace.

To Michael Fleet - At some point in the Founders' past, I bet they encountered Solids who at first offered 'peaceful' intentions', before revealing their true colours. If the Changelings are so blinded by hate that they can't see how the Solids have treated one of their own people, then I can't see them trusting anyone who comes in peace, not yet anyway. When that time comes, I hope the writers remember Joseph Sisko's comments about not catching Changelings using gadgets. I would rather see the Founders realizing that not all Solids are going to kill them just because they're 'different', instead of Starfleet inventing some flash technology to defeat the Dominion.

To David J Raper - re: the Kazon. SPOILER ALERT: I think that Janeway missed a opportunity to make peace with the Kazon. In *Alliances*, when the ship attacks the conference room, why didn't she beam up the Sect leaders to safety along with everyone else? At least then they might have believed Janeway's non-involvement in the assassination attempt (after they calmed down). As it is, they're more determined to capture Voyager.

I just read about *Body Parts* and *Broken Link* in *Star Trek Monthly*. Talk about serious character development! *Link* in particular will answer (in part) a major question concerning the current status-quo of the Alpha Quadrant, and pose a few new ones....

• **Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Feline very catted!**

Have you ever had one of those weeks when you're trying desperately to catch up on work, suffering from the pangs of acute backache, fostering a half-Siamese kitten with all the tact of a bulldozer and the energy of a small nuclear reactor, who thinks the fish food is for him and your bed is a giant cat toy, and to crown it the 'y' on the wordprocessor has gone on a work-to-rule in protest at all the foreign words you key in. That's what the past week has been like!

Ceilaer the cat has taken another Open First, this time at the Merseyside Show.....not bad for a Paisley alleycat.

Well, those at Wolf 359 will know but for everyone else out there... I took Second Prize in the fiction competition. The story concerned one of Odo's investigations, and the icing on the cake (for me at least) was being handed my certificate by Rene Auberjonois. Two second prizes, (I took Second Prize at Contagion 94) two DS9 stories, and I don't consider myself very familiar with Deep Space Nine at all.

To White Hawk, or is it Ixtlacauhtli, or maybe Yuraq Waman, or whatever, (Please let me know, Native American linguistics fascinates me, I'd love to add another language to those I speak). Perhaps you (and others) might find "The Indians' Book" recorded by Natalie Curtis at the turn of the century (ISBN 0-517-61539-8) of help. It explains some of the mythology and gives songs and dances, grouped by tribe, and has the advantage of being authentic - the songs were transcribed directly from their singers.

To Bill McClure, Kathleen Glancy et al, re the Aztecs. Errr. The Tenochca/Mexica/Aztecs or whatever you want to call them, were superstitious, but then so were the Incas, if you translate the name of their god, Wiraqocha, it means "oil-pool" and refers to

Wiraqocha's white face. He too left to return, as did the Aymara's Thunupa, creating the Rio Desaguadero en route. More to the point of the Tenochca, had Cortes and his army landed at Cempoalla on any day other than that which they did, Motecuhzoma Xacalatzin would have sent his army without hesitation. However, they landed on what was by the Tenochca calendar Chiconau Ehecātl (the festival or birthday of Quetzalcoatl) in the year Ce Acatl (the year ruled by Quetzalcoatl.) Please, before you dismiss this as superstition, think of the way the return of Western gods is predicted! Re the rest of your paragraph - are you going to lynch the writer, 'cos if you are, I'll join you!"

To anyone out there who speaks Spanish (or at a pinch Portuguese), could you please contact me - como siempre, mi castellano necesita mucha practica y aqui en Inglaterra no hay alguien con que hablarle, o escribirle. I'm at "Tierra Venida", 15A Clevedon Road, Ingol, PRESTON, Lancs PR2 3YL.

To the Committee - wishing you good luck in your new - er - enterprise of retirement. Will sign off properly next time.

• Rosalyn Holland - Solihull

I can't thank you all enough for five great years (of my membership) of the club. I am so sad IDIC is folding. I know I have not contributed as much as I should have to the newsletter, but I have sure enjoyed reading it. Thanks also go to Helen White (in particular) and the others who have written such entertaining convention reports. Thanks to all the contributors to the Postbag, who have given me so much enjoyment over the years.

I am sad to read in several of the mags that fandom is dying. The opinion seems to be that large numbers of people were drawn into fandom by the Next Generation and now that is finished, they are leaving. I can only say (and hope) we shall be left with the true fans, the fans who supported Trek in the lean years. Perhaps there will be a return to the old type of fan activities at conventions? That is of course if conventions themselves survive. I did not attend Warp 2 so I do not know exactly what went on, but it sounds bad, reading Jacqueline Comben's report of

the Business Meeting (N/L 46 P 51). Bad for the future of conventions that is - she tells us the con itself was very good.

So we are not to have a convention in May 98? I remember my first convention at Leeds in the summer of 1989 - at that time no-one had bid for spring 1991 so a committee had formed in haste and put a bid forward for the Grand Hotel in Birmingham. This was voted through, rather than not have a convention. I only hope this will happen at Concorde, ie "someone" will bid for spring 98 as well as summer 98. To anyone in my area looking for a good "local" convention, I would highly recommend Midcon 15 at Leicester in October.

I am also a member of STAG, and would recommend any IDIC members who are looking for an alternative club to try it. They have a small letters page and are always asking for more contributions. I think they would be a little overwhelmed if all IDIC ex-members joined and wrote in, but we could sure liven the STAG Postbag up! (Write to STAG Membership Secretary, 70 Beresford Rd, Haringey, London N8 0AJ.)

I attended Generations II at the Albert Hall because I wanted to see my heroes (the classic cast). I enjoyed it, but sad to see a lot of empty seats. Every morning the ticket touts tried desperately to sell me a ticket. After Generations in 1995, they expected another sell-out. I guess the empty seats were a sign of the fall in fandom. No Next Generation guests, no fans. In fact there was one NG guest, Wil Wheaton. I was happy to find I really liked him. I met him in 1994 and he was very stand-offish; he has changed and had a lot of interesting things to say. Best of all, that there is no personal accountability in the USA. Everyone is a victim of everyone else. Any bad/unsocial behaviour is justified by the cry, "I am a victim of X". I think this applies to more countries than the USA.

To anyone in the Solihull area, check out the new Star Trek/X-Files stall at the Indoor Market (Solihull High St) - some nice stuff on offer and run by a charming young man who likes to talk Trek.

Can I wish everyone all the best for the future and once again thank all the committee for their hard work and all the enjoyment they have brought me. Hope to see you at conventions; hope fandom can survive into the 21st century.

• **David Raper - Hull**

I would just like to say that I was saddened to hear about the impending demise of IDIC, though in light of the drop in membership, etc, it is entirely understandable and if anyone is to blame it is those former members who did not renew their subscriptions, for whatever reason. To me, IDIC was something to look forward to and to enjoy, particularly those contributions made by the members themselves, regardless of whether I agreed with the opinions expressed in it or not. It was also a considerable comfort to know that I was far from alone in enjoying Star Trek and in entertaining the hope of a better future for us all. To those responsible for IDIC, thank you for your hard work and patience. It's been fun.

To Jacqueline Y Comben - Maybe Tuvok only joined Starfleet late in life; with a centuries long life-span there is no reason for him to hurry, which also applied to promotion as well. Vulcans are nothing if not patient.

To Jason Rorbach - Yes, Gowron would attack Picard in battle - or anyone else who gets in his way. From the way he has been behaving recently, the real question is, who wouldn't he attack?

To Martin Stahl - Re Threshold. Tom Paris' *evolution* owed very little to biology and much to the let's-turn-a-familiar-character-into-something-weird urge that sometimes afflicts Trek writers, like Genesis - but it was still fun. It also opens up the possibility of a way home if they can overcome the side effects, and full marks to Robert Picardo for once again proving just why the Doctor is always worth watching.

To David Williams - Yes, the living quarters are in the saucer section, but a lot of people work in the Stardrive section, ie

Geordi & Co. After all, warp engines do not look after themselves.

To Edward Woo - Personally, I think that "Captain on the bridge" is a warning to alert everybody to look busy in case he/she/it is not in the best of moods.

And finally, congratulations to Marc Alaimo for his continuing performance as Gul Dukat, a character with more sides to him than a Parisses Squares tournament. The Gul has come a long way since he first appeared as Sisko's arch nemesis in Emissary, and I hope that we see more of him. He certainly would like to see more of Kira, and following the events of Return to Grace, he now has a very good reason for returning to DS9 now and then, aside from annoying Sisko and checking up on Garak, that is. I look forward to his next appearance.

• **Marie I J Raper - Hull**

Greetings, fellow Trekkers, for another N/L.

Firstly, to Jacqueline Comben - Although I *can* agree that some younger people saw TOS only after TNG, I don't think that you can count me amongst that number, as I first saw Star Trek when I was in junior school. Therefore I *do* understand what people like your good self see in the original series, but just because I didn't see the series myself until the late 1970s does not mean that I cannot appreciate the unique impact that you have described. While I can agree that there is something of a generation gap as far as Star Trek is concerned, that does not justify your stating in N/L 44 that "*Anyone born after 1960 cannot appreciate the impact of Star Trek*". That form of comment just didn't sit well with me, although I think I can understand and appreciate a little better what you were trying to say.

Mind you, having said that much, it is worth considering that the very idea of a *Klingon* as a Starfleet officer would have been inconceivable in Kirk's day. What would he and his crew have made of Lt Commander Data, an artificial life form *who has risen through the ranks by his own efforts*? Please also take into consideration that one of the main

reasons that The Cage was rejected was that the test audience was not prepared to accept a female officer giving orders to male subordinates. Indeed, throughout the whole of the original series we never saw a female Captain, but on the other hand, in the 24th century, the appearance of female Captains is more commonplace.

To Jason Rorbach - Re Odan's aversion to the transporter, isn't it possible that Odan might have a phobia about transporters? Possibly due to a traumatic incident that he might have experienced in a previous host - a Trill equivalent of transporter psychosis. Jadzia Dax, on the other hand, clearly has no problem with transporters, not only because she is a Starfleet officer, but also she is about to use the transporter as a matter of course.

To Baerbel Schmidt - Re The Sons of Mogh. The only reason that Bashir agreed to the "solution" of wiping Kurn's memory and, with the help of a friend of Worf's family giving him a completely different life, was that if he hadn't, Kurn would have continued his self-destructive streak until sooner or later he would have committed suicide. There is no way that The Sons of Mogh can be compared with Life Support, as the circumstances surrounding the two episodes are totally different. In Life Support, Bashir was trying to keep Vedek Bareil alive for the duration of the Bajoran/Cardassian peace talks; in The Sons of Mogh, he only agreed to wipe Kurn's memory as a last resort, to stop the younger Klingon from killing himself.

Finally, to Jean Sloan - Re Generations and Crusher being dunked by Data. There is a moral in that little scene - *you never, ever, ask an android to be spontaneous, to do something unexpected!!* Because the chances are you'll end up regretting that you ever said anything at all.

• Waltraud Zucha-Glass - Switzerland

I do wonder whether the current widespread loss of interest in Star Trek might not be a direct consequence of Paramount's frantic marketing strategies. It took the Classic fans two decades to convince them that they could actually make money with Star Trek - but as soon as they had finally

realised that they had a golden cow in their barn, they promptly started milking her dry. You can only shake your head over so much ingenuousness!

To Lesley Arrowsmith - I can already hear Baldrick saying, "I have a cunning plan, Captain!"... and Captain Edmund Blackadder answering, "As cunning as the Vulcan who became professor of logic on Klinzhai and survived?"

To Elaine Brown - Visit to a Weird Planet is also re-reprinted in one of the Archives reprints (not Vol 1, as far as I remember). However, I always found the second part in Voyages much more funny.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - One last word on the 'vanity publishing' debate. If you take your definition of VP that far, you ought to include letters written to newspapers to have them published. If that's not VP, then what is?

To Marcia Stanislawski - May I point out that by calling the Middle Ages a time where "ignorance and fear reigned" you are adopting exactly the attitude you are actually deploring in your letter. If you're talking about oppressive ideology, no human rights, low sanitary level, corrupt beaurocracy, well, your "big Empires" had that as well, and we've had it in Europe this century - not only once. No need to call on the much-slandered "Middle Ages" for that. Quite the contrary, the Middle Ages were a time of settling down, of beginning anew, discovery, rethinking and building. I don't think the cultural and social values of the Middle Ages should be dismissed so summarily.

• Michael Hill - Crewe

Give up IDIC! You can't be serious. You are? Hmm... Well, I'm sure you've put a great deal of thought into this. You know how much we members love IDIC. Even if we don't always say so, we do. So you've probably anticipated our reaction and have already made the decision, so there's nothing more to say. We'll still be here if you change your minds a few years down the line :-)

Rather than fill the remaining newsletters

with sombre thoughts, let's try to finish on a high. Think positive.

Has anyone noticed in the excellent brig scene in STV:TFF when Kirk sits down ("I gotta sit down") behind him is a sign saying, "Do not use while in spacedock". Nice touch.

To Kay Stagg - Thank you for your help on my rock climbing film. It's so effective I might just re-create the whole scene. That would be fun! Then again, Human life is far too precious to risk on crazy stunts.

Here's a few quick con reports without the "Got up at 4am, late train" stuff.

Generations II - was crowded, expensive, but the guests were excellent, especially WS.

Warp II - The best one this year. Nana Visitor was wonderful. We were sitting in the dining area and Sid and Nana walked past us. It took a while to sink in, wow, that was Kira and Bashir! Also had a good dance session (some modern stuff).

Wolf 359 - Didn't see a video room. The guest lineup was so good if like me you also consider B5 a damn good show. The rest of the time we were at the bar. *[Sheila - I heard that Warner Bros threatened legal action if any videos were shown.]*

Babcon 96 - Lots of guests, lots of fun, but it was even more cramped than Gen II.

Can I just plug a convention? The first Alien Nation con. I'm sure you'll agree it was an excellent series (still is, of course). The fans are getting together this October. For more details send an SAE to Diane Gorton at 44 Alexandra Way, Tivendale, Warley, West Mids B69 2LX.

One last thing. Has anybody ever been threatened into giving money to charity? Whilst at Warp 2 a couple of Klingons came up to us and held bat'leths to our throats while someone else asked for money for their local charity. OK, I like a joke, but I got the feeling that unless they agreed we wouldn't go away.

Goodbye to the best Star Trek club in the quadrant. We'll all miss you.

• Jill Searle - Shrewsbury

Well, I had vowed to make no more comments, but since IDIC is regrettably closing down, here goes.

To Vered Gilad (P22) - I don't think anything can be done now to bring back Gene-Trek, for obvious reasons. Personally, I feel that campaigning for films/series with the old characters in them is a waste of time. The characters were not the only thing that made CT - the storylines had a lot to do with it as well. Even if the rumours of a Sulu series turn out to be true, I won't be getting excited because the same people will most likely be making it as all the other current series - in other words, it will be Berman-Trek. What I do with most of the CT films, and now with most Berman-Trek, is assume they are not part of "my" ST universe. In my ST universe, Kirk LIVES! And in my universe, the view of the Federation is as shown in the TNG episode The Neutral Zone, and not as depicted in DS9. While I don't believe that will be our future, it was stimulating to imagine that it might.

I've always had problems with the Trek forms which were made with little input from Gene, and when I read his biography I discovered somewhat to my surprise that the things I didn't like were the same ones he complained about. I also realised two things: firstly, that Gene was just a man with faults and failings like any other and did not dedicate his life to ST, although it was important to him (for some odd reason it had never crossed my mind that he was writing other things long before he came up with ST!) and secondly that, beyond a doubt, in spite of him having written what I found to be some of the most terrible CT episodes (eg Omega Glory!!!) it was his input and his ideas (ideals?) - and his characters - which drew me to something which WAS more than just a television series.

You're probably right that you may as well look to the new stuff rather than the old. It just seems sad that right up until 1986, 20 years after the first CT episode was made, we

were still endlessly discussing it without running out of ideas or interest, and that's happening on a far more muted level now. As for an all CT N/L, there was a club (I don't know if it still exists) but I decided not to join because I liked TNG and thought it would be divisive - ah well, how could I know I wouldn't like DS9 and that TNG would be Bermanised?! :-)

• **Keren Breen 49 King St, Neath, SA11 1PF**

Jackie Comben's article, "Whither Conventions", got me thinking. Warp 2 was my first real con (but not, I hope, my last - Jackie, you talked me into aiming for Concorde!) and I had a wonderful time. I would not have been able to go further away at that time of year or stay away that long - I missed the daytime programme on Thursday and Friday as I had to work (teachers don't get days off!). I know several other people who went only because it was in Cardiff, and who wouldn't entertain the idea of travelling or staying away. This is undoubtedly true of any con. I can only speak for myself and my family, but I'm less interested in the guests than in when and where - ie, is it in the school holidays and can I get there in a reasonable length of time (I don't want to leave Eek the Tabby Terrorist for too long - I want curtains when I get back!) I suppose that, given the choice of only one con your only choice is to go or stay home, but I am not convinced that there's any proof that Wolf 359 is responsible for Warp 2's financial troubles. No doubt people went to Wolf who didn't go to Warp 2, as there were people who went to Warp 2 who didn't go to Wolf 359. I suppose the only way to tell for sure is for potential con committees is to do as Jackie suggests and avoid the April-May-June period - but then, Wolf 359 wasn't a Trek con; neither is Fantasticon UK, organised for May 97. Do we expect other fan groups to fit in around us? I agree it would be a shame for Warp 2 to be the last con of such quality - it was excellent - but I don't think its losses can be solely blamed on a competing con.

Did anyone take a photo of the dark-haired Romulan at Warp 2, and if so, would you be willing to sell me a copy? It didn't occur to Teveyr that anyone would want to photograph her and it came as quite a shock

when people asked if they could take her picture! I stupidly didn't think to take a camera along, so if you know of a photo, please get in touch!

To everyone who cried at The Visitor - Me, too! I was afraid I was getting soft in my old age, so I'm glad it wasn't just me. This is the first episode that moved me literally to tears and I howled, twice!

To Anne-Marie Flowers, re Spock's DNA - We know of at least one Romulan-Human (Sela!) - why shouldn't there be others? Romulans and Vulcans have a lot in common, sharing a heritage if you go back pre-Surak, and the DNA is very similar.

Can anyone recommend a good Trek fan club now that IDIC is closing? For my part, if anyone wants to come along to meetings of the Swansea Cult TV Society, I can promise them a welcome. As the name implies, the society's interests are wide-ranging (at present, we few Trekkers are seriously outnumbered, but topics of conversation range from Willo the Wisp to B5!) but things are never dull. We meet every Friday in the Wyndham Arms, Lower Oxford St, Swansea - just ask for the Daleks(!) I know it can be daunting meeting people you don't know, but if anyone wants to get in touch with me beforehand (01639 635813) I'll try to look after you!

About merchandise - at Warp 2 Richard Arnold advised that if you feel you're being ripped off you should write and say so. If you just stop buying - which is my reaction - the manufacturers - and ultimately Paramount/Viacom - will use this as proof of disinterest, and far from improving the merchandise, will just quit producing it. He suggested that you write saying, "I used to buy all the (eg) books but the last few haven't been up to standard", which may - just may - encourage them to improve their products.

To Helen White, re Blyton Trek - laughed my socks off! I liked John Shibley's lightbulb jokes too, and Rhiannon's Klingon jokes. (Congrats on your 18th, Rhiannon!) I only know one Klingon joke - (apart from Klingon "honour" says Teveyr!) -

How many Klingons does it take to change a lightbulb?

Two, one to do it, and one to kill him and claim the honour. (I never said it was new!)

As this may be my last letter, look out for me - or a Romulan called Teveyr - at future cons, and say Hi if you see us - okay?

• **T Z Hunt - Hull**

It was sad news indeed to learn that IDIC is soon to close.

My membership began with N/L 8 back in April 1990. Rumours were rife then that Star Trek VI would be set in Starfleet Academy and that Captain Kirk would not survive the film. The BBC announced that it would begin screening TNG later in the year.

Well, the Academy film failed to materialise, but sadly the anti-Kirk brigade got their wishes in ST: Generations. The final episode of TNG has just been shown, and the BBC has announced it will begin broadcasting Voyager in the autumn. It seems full circle for so many things.

Six years of newsletters have brought news and reviews of Star Trek in all its manifestations and associated merchandise, information about the actors and their activities inside and outside Star Trek, convention reports, personal reflections on a wide range of Trek-related subjects and a lively Postbag that must surely have touched upon every aspect of Star Trek.

Karen Embacher's marathon comparison of TOS in Britain and Germany, Helen White's quizzes and highly individual (and always entertaining) convention reports and Taruka Quauhtezcatl's equally individual (and entertaining) convention reports and articles are highlights I remember fondly.

I recall the 25th Anniversary special - I had been looking forward to the 30th Anniversary special - and the moving comments carried in the newsletter following Gene Roddenberry's death.

IDIC introduced me to so many aspects of

Star Trek I didn't even know existed previously. Its pages encouraged me to attend my first convention - an occasion so filled with warmth and laughter I cannot thank you enough.

I enjoyed following the IDIC sponsored guide dogs and felt a certain sense of worth through my small contribution. My colleagues at work will attest to my "assertive" approach to collecting used stamps from them.

It's been a thoroughly enjoyable trek. I thank you all for it and wish you every good fortune for the future.

• **Lynne Banister - Oldham, Lancs**

I would like to begin by thanking Janet & Co for a job well done. Although I run a club myself I am, first and foremost, a fan and I have greatly enjoyed IDIC's newsletters. I'm sorry to hear that the club is to close, but can understand Janet's reasons and sympathise with her; apart from anything else, running a club is extremely time consuming, leaving little time for the other pleasures, let alone the necessities, of life. Enjoy your new-found leisure, Janet!

Now, I suspect that some IDIC members will experience withdrawal symptoms so I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Star Trek Action Group (known as STAG). Like IDIC, we're a well-established club (in fact, we've been in business since 1973 and are Britain's longest-running Trek club), and our newsletters are quite similar in content with the usual news, reviews, interviews, articles, episode guides, etc, and a letters page which I would be delighted to expand. We do differ from IDIC in one respect; although we aim to publish 6 newsletters a year I find it impossible to keep to a regular publication schedule due to having a 3-year-old at home and now a new baby as well. However, we usually manage 4 to 5 newsletters a year. Our membership fee covers 6 newsletters and is £10 for the UK, £12 for Europe, £15 for USA and Africa, and £15.50 for the rest of the world.

STAG also runs a postal lending library which is well stocked with hundreds of Trek

books and zines.

If you would like to consider joining STAG, please send me your name and address, plus 2 second class stamps (or 2 IRCs) for a copy of a recent newsletter.

Lynne Banister, Star Trek Action Group,
49 Nudger Green, Dobcross, Oldham, OL3
5AW.

• Lindsay Wright

To everyone - It was with great sadness that I learned of the imminent closure of IDIC. I have been a member now for the last two years and I've greatly enjoyed all aspects of the magazine and really looked forward to it dropping through the letterbox. I don't know where I'm going to get all my Trek updates and news from now on and it will be sad not to be able to communicate with you all any more. Being a member of IDIC has been like being a member of a family. I'm going to miss you all.

I'm sure I'm not alone when I thank Janet, Sheila and Valerie for all their hard work in their professional running of the club over the years and wish them well in the future.

It would be nice if we could keep our

correspondence going in the form of a letter zine. I would be interested in getting together with other like-minded people to talk about the possibility of this. In any case I would be very glad to write to any of you should you be so inclined, to discuss the possibility of putting out a letter zine or just to talk about Trek. I look forward to hearing from you.


Best wishes to you all. Health and long life!

Lindsay Wright, Smig Cottage, 34 New Lane, Crossens, Southport, Merseyside PR9 7LR

Suggestions:

• **Lynne Baxter** - What I will miss the most is the cast and crew news, and the convention reports. Perhaps someone out there will set up an IDIC home page, so we can get together electronically. My e-mail address is lynne.baxter@gbhapp.com.

• **Stephen Daniels** - How about an IDIC Web page?

[Janet: I don't rule this out for some time in the future but I will need learn more about html first. Unfortunately this will only benefit those with Internet access.] 

GENERATIONS II, Royal Albert Hall

Reported by Jill Clements and Tim Goodchild

Jill Clements:

Now that my daughter has left home (she's getting married in September) I can look forward to taking myself off to more conventions including the north of the border ones! The furthest I've gone so far is Nottingham for the Leonard Nimoy one. The weekend would have been great even if HE hadn't been there.

The RAH Generations II was a different experience. The RAH staff were rude and unhelpful. They seemed to think we were "lesser mortals" and as for the Stargazer organisation and staff - we, the public, who should be treated as customers, were their last concern. I heard so much dissatisfaction

expressed, and will not be alone in ignoring any of their future events.

To Dave Styles - Your article gave me more understanding of the 2-day buzz of discontent that went around the RAH after the "party". People had been conned into paying £12.99 to go to it, only to see people getting in for £4 on the night. We all want conventions with cast members, but if we all vote with our feet, Stargazer will never "con" us again.

By the way, Leonard did not have his flight cancelled by BA, and Stargazer knew well before 10 o'clock on Monday (when we were told) that he was not coming. If you receive any information re Stargazer bringing

him over later in the year, disregard it. So were you the Kute Klingon with Keyboard? I'm still playing it.

To Nicole Comtet - It was nice to meet you again at RAH. I'll see you in Nottingham in November and I'm still searching out your wonderful Spock stories. I still think Vulcans are feline.

In case you think I didn't enjoy myself at all, I did, in spite of the organisation. I have always loved the RAH. It is beautiful, the stage and arena are perfect for the event, but for facilities and if you want refreshments it is awful at this sort of all-day function. The high point for me was meeting Avery Brooks (despite the RAH staff telling the autograph winners the wrong time, the wrong room and refusing to let us get to the signing). He is so cool, with a smile that made me gasp. I've always been a Sisko fan. He's calm and controlled and now I realise how cool the actor is, I see a lot more in him.

Wil Wheaton was a delight; both days he was an entertaining, inspirational and enjoyable talker. Everybody warmed to him. The character may have been considered a pain by many fans but the actor is a brilliant young gentleman. I hope we see a lot more of him.

The individual talks by George, Walter and Jimmy were full of great stories but together they were so funny and relaxed. They obviously get on very well. Walter talked about being mistaken for people. I knew about Davy Jones, but he's also been taken for Woody Allen!?! He also said that when he heard Bill was directing ST:V he said he'd walk off set if there were any problems with him. As it turned out, he was thrilled with Bill as a director, totally different from his memories of acting with him. Walter does a wonderful impression of Bill - had me in fits.

Robert Picardo is so funny! People told him he should do "stand-up" and he said he couldn't. Wrong, he definitely can and he can sing up a storm (but not as cool as Avery Brooks can).

Ethan Phillips is on speed or something. I was jumpy within 5 minutes. He never stops pacing, doesn't string sentences or thoughts together, but he is also a laugh a minute. I took some photos of him and Robert together. Spooky!

Bill Shatner was great. He came on relaxed, happy, and when he told the story of DeForest's dog dying I thought I'd choke laughing. (Sorry, dog lovers, but if you heard it...) He said he had no bad feeling toward any of the cast. I half hoped they would come on and join him.

I did stay in the bidding for his autograph/meeting, but I sat down when Bob said the remainder should come on stage. I couldn't have done that.

By the way, Bob did a great job. Give the man a show!

Tim Goodchild:

It was way back in September 1995 when Stargazer Productions sent me information on Generations II. At last year's event, Patrick Stewart commented on it by stating, "An absolutely magnificent event, probably the best ever in the history of Star Trek", and I entirely agreed. So with that said, I knew I had to go again! Generations II was my Christmas present, and therefore I had the best seats in the house for the whole three days.

Anyway, day one included guest talks from James Doohan, Walter Koenig, Larry & Janet Nemecek, Robert Picardo, Ethan Phillips and Avery Brooks. Well, that's what it said in the programme. First off was Jimmy Doohan. He was greeted with thunderous applause and related very well to the audience. He told many stories which I could go on to tell you about, but this article would end up being five pages long. One thing which did surprise me was that when he was offered the job of guest starring in ST: Generations, he first refused, purely on the basis that he wanted Leonard Nimoy and DeForest Kelley to star alongside Bill Shatner. Walter Koenig talked about how he got onto the series, what he is doing now, and told

everybody that he will be making about two or three appearances on Babylon5 a year! Larry and Janet Nemecek spoke about what they do on DS9 and Voyager, and they also brought along some "behind the scenes" slides to show. One fact that stuck in my mind is that when DS9, Voyager and the Next Generation (film) sets are built and standing, they take up a massive 25% of the Paramount lot!

The one talk which I was looking forward to on the first day was Robert Picardo as the character he plays is my favourite Star Trek character. He was by far the only person who really made *everyone* laugh! He has only had one difficult scene to do in Voyager so far, and it was in the episode in the first season when Neelix's lungs are removed. Robert said that he had to take so many takes of the scene because he could not stop laughing when he says to the Captain, "Neelix's lungs have been removed" whilst keeping a straight face! Then an unannounced Jennifer Lien came on stage, receiving many deafening wolf whistles. Ethan Phillips was very funny but extremely nervous. This was, by the way, Robert Picardo's, Jennifer Lien's and Ethan Phillips' first British convention, and with it being held in the Royal Albert Hall, you can see why some were nervous.

Finally there was Avery Brooks. Hmmm. He came on sporting a white shirt, black trousers and waistcoat all-in-one, and a shiny black jacket. Oh, not forgetting the black shades! He is a very quiet and private man, and is completely different from the other stars on the shows. However, he does not mind Michael Dorn coming into the show, and it is certain that the show will continue for at least another couple of years yet. Colm Meaney makes him laugh by just looking at him, and Avery looks forward to many more scenes with the character Kasidy Yates.

Day 2 starred George Takei, Wil Wheaton, Avery Brooks, Larry & Janet Nemecek, Robert Picardo and William Shatner! George Takei talked about his experience when he received an invite to Alton Towers to open a new ride (when he discovered that he had thrown away his passport!) Wil Wheaton was a surprise. He is


the complete opposite of Wesley Crusher, and he related extremely well to the audience. Wil told us that he has appeared as a guest lead in The Outer Limits. I think the one thing that made the audience realise that Wil Wheaton is a great person was when he replied to a question on River Phoenix dying from drugs. He replied by saying, "River was a very good friend and a great actor. However, I don't like drugs, I never have and I never will. So when I heard that he had died of taking drugs, I was not upset, but just annoyed with what he had done." To that, he received very loud applause. With that said, I would be happy to see him at a convention again.

Finally on that day, William Shatner took centre stage. He got by far the loudest reception out of all the guests that appeared. Having read both of Bill's Star Trek Memories books, I recognised that he used some of the material out of the books on stage, including the story of Leonard Nimoy's bike, Nicholas Meyer's cigars during Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country, and DeForest Kelley not being able to spell his name! But there was one story Bill told us about DeForest Kelley's chihuahua dogs. During the filming of ST:VI, DeForest comes on stage with tears in his eyes. Bill comes over and asks what the matter is, and DeForest replies, "One of my chihuahuas has died." "How?" asks Bill. DeForest replies, "It was running around the garden and it ran straight into a water sprinkler and knocked itself out!" At which point everyone in the hall burst out into laughter.

On the third and final day, Leonard Nimoy was due on first, but the British Airways aeroplane that was due to fly him over was cancelled, and as Leonard was keeping to a tight schedule, he was unable to make the next flight over. The guests on stage had all already been on once before, but the highlight was probably when James Doohan, Walter Koenig and George Takei came on stage together. They acted out a little scene in the characters which they portray, and Jimmy told us that George laughs like a cross between a machine gun and a seal! So when George laughed, Walter and Jimmy got everyone in the hall to do an impersonation

of George, who then broke out into riotous laughter. Ethan Phillips, Jennifer Lien, Wil Wheaton, Larry & Janet Nemecek and William Shatner rounded the convention off.

The Easter Bank Holiday was an excellent three days. It was an amazing experience to

see Jimmy, George, Walter, Robert Picardo, Avery Brooks, Wil Wheaton, Jennifer Lien and William Shatner all live on stage. However, in my opinion this year's event was far better organised, but the atmosphere was not quite as great, as last year's. But - here's to Generations III! 

WARP II GUEST TALKS

reported by Jean Sloan

SIDDIG el FADIL al MAHDI

Stage name - Alexander Siddig (Sid to his friends)

Nana dislikes the name change; she thinks Sid's given name is much more romantic when it's pronounced right. Unfortunately it rarely is pronounced correctly. When Sid was introduced to people it was always as Siddig - er - and that was it. One evening he was in a restaurant with a group of friends; they were all slightly drunk and someone suggested that he change his name. It seemed like a good idea. He was going to call himself Trumpton Womble; then he thought he might change his name every year - "but my career might not be long enough...". Eventually he got a baby book, but ran out of steam halfway through the As. Alexander, a family name, was chosen.

Sid made an unscheduled appearance at Warp 2, sporting a rather fetching beard which he is unlikely to be allowed to keep when filming resumes after hiatus. He was much more relaxed and confident than at Warp 1, but equally entertaining. He had accompanied Nana to the con, and was obviously making sure she didn't overdo things. He was asked if he was intending to name his son Julian... "That'd be a really sad thing to do..." The prospect of becoming a father terrifies him.

He and Colm Meaney are firm friends; they go drinking together - they "can go into a bar and bitch about the beer. It's a real British relationship."

When his relationship with Nana was developing he had some uncomfortable

moments. In *Fascinations* he was uncomfortable when Bashir had to kiss Kira: "I was with this woman I adored - not quite sure what to do with myself..." In *Our Man Bashir*, when their relationship had just got going, he had a wonderful time... "I felt like Bond".

Sid wasn't in the Season 4 cast photos. He was fed up with not earning from the photos so he said he wouldn't do them, but he "got his wrist slapped. I'll be in the next one." His future plans involve being in a movie with Malcolm McDowell, his uncle, and, hopefully, directing an episode next season. And, of course, becoming a father.

WALTER KOENIG

"My lord, it's been a long time since we started all this..."

"...and still the beat goes on..."

Walter looked very well; he is keeping fit, and over the weekend could be seen jogging around Cardiff with grit and determination...

Mark Lenard was supposed to be at the con, but is unwell. Walter was unable to shed any light on the seriousness or otherwise of Mark's illness; the family is being very private about it, which is, of course, their right. I hope it is not serious, and I wish Mark well - he is one of my favourite Trek actors.

Walter conducted a Q&A session which for obvious reasons had a B5 flavour; it was nonetheless interesting for that.

Q - Is another appearance in B5 planned for *Bester*?

A - Bester is in 2 episodes this season, and the last line in Ship of Tears indicates that the character is available for future episodes. However, there is another question - whether the show will be picked up for a 4th season. It is in 3rd season now with a devoted following, but it isn't earning. The first 2 seasons did earn because the show was screened twice a week; the third season is only screened once a week, so it is losing money. It is not a quality issue - there is just so much product available. Warner seems to be open to continuing as the show is rather a flagship; also Babylonian Productions shares half of the production cost, but in the business, lack of profit is always dangerous. *[Janet - Babylon 5 has been picked up for a 4th season.]*

Q - Have you got any way of controlling the use of your own face?

A - Jimmy, Nichelle, George and Walter approached Paramount to try and get some money back; they had received nothing for 7/8 years though merchandise bearing their faces was still being sold. After some barter, Paramount offered a bulk payment for work already done, which was divided equally between the four. Walter felt it important to thank JD in this negotiation because he insisted that the funds should be divided equally although there was more product for him than the others.

Q - Do you believe that "all good things come to an end" or do you think ST will carry on for ever?

A - There has to be a finite end to the phenomenon, the only question is when. ST has plateaued; the new shows, though well received, have not got an audience like TNG. Conventions in the States are reaching saturation point. The release of the new film will be an indicator; if it makes 70 - 80 million, the franchise will be in a holding pattern. If the taking drops there will be trouble ahead.

Q - Would you appear in another ST show if asked?

A - Only as another character and without appliances, which is not conceivable. There was some discussion about Walter appearing in TNG but the idea was generated

too late.

Walter's relationship with Rick Berman is strained - he's not sure why. He expressed disappointment about the cutting of Generations... he could pitch ideas for DS9 stories, but he is not really welcome on the set.

Q - Was it a good idea to have TOS characters on TNG?

A - If it works, as long as it doesn't compromise the integrity of the show, of course. George Takei and Grace Lee Whitney will be appearing on Voyager.

Q - Why was Chekov invented?

A - To appeal to young kids, "the ones who write in pencil on lined paper..." It was rumoured that Pravda complained that there were no Russians in the show when Russia was first in space. Walter doesn't believe the rumour - he thinks the Russians had other things on their minds.

Q - Could you give an insight into Gene?

A - "Well, I'm not going to lower my voice and speak in hushed tones because that was not the man I knew. I will not deify him. He was a man with anger, spite, generosity, goodwill, all the frailties and strengths we possess as human beings... he was a man like the rest, but he achieved something that none of us ever have - that was the measure of the man."

Walter asked Gene about Chekov's future towards the end of the second series of OT. Gene showed Walter some memos suggesting ways of developing the character in the 3rd season; but then the schedule was swapped to Friday 10pm, and that was the beginning of the end.

Walter compared his experience of working on Trek and B5. "My experience on B5 is what I had always hoped and believed was in store for me when I started out as an actor. Perfect opportunity. What I was left with 30 years ago was security, regular work, a prestigious product, but no opportunity. Then there were stars, and the movable furniture. I'm not bitter - I will always be grateful for that manner of earning a living,

but I couldn't go back to "Warp factor 4" this late in my life. I turned down Generations at first; I saw it as a reprise of what I had already done. Then they devised a way of making the character more dimensional, but those scenes ended on the cutting room floor."

Walter talked at some length about his experience with Bester; he feels really comfortable with the role. J Michael seems in tune with him in the writing.

Q - How did you develop the Russian accent?

A - Walter does dialects "none terribly well". His parents were from Russia. He got the inversion of v and w from his father, and a dialect book helped.

Q - How would your career have developed without ST?

A - He likely wouldn't have had an acting career. The film industry has been in a state of depression for 50 years. There are 90,000 members of the screen actors' guild; at any one time, only 2 - 300 are working, 80% earn less than \$3000 per year, so people have supplemental incomes. If not for ST, Walter might have worked as a writer. When things were slow in the early 79s, he took to writing and sold 7 or 8 scripts to TV. He found that incredibly disillusioning; by the time the script was worked over, it was unrecognisable. He was lucky that he always had ST to fall back on in some form. He graduated with a psychology degree so might have been a psychologist, but even that is unstable. Theories are always changing. Then again he might have ended up selling pencils. He was very lucky; many talented actors do not get the break.

Q - How do you see the philosophies of ST and B5?

A - ST is about societies developing on their own without interference. There is no armageddon, the world is united. It may stray in individual episodes but that is the drive.

In B5 there is striving to achieve a kind of harmony... "like the growing pains that have already been survived and overcome in ST".

Q - How did you and Mark get together in the theatre?

A - Walter cannot remember where he and Mark met, but it wasn't on ST. They were both observing at the Actors's Studio where they did Pinter together. Mark suggested they join another theatre company together, where they did Box and Cox Gilbert and Sullivan. Mark saw Boys in Autumn with George C Scott; Walter set it up for them and they have performed it in different locations, often one night stands.

Q - What was Chekov's finest hour?

A - The "nuclear wessels" scene in ST4, also the FBI scene. Walter had a good time filming on the USS Ranger masquerading as the Enterprise. Those scenes focused on Chekov - there are few moments like that in 30 years.

There was a bad moment with LN on ST4. They had been working on the Bird of Prey for 10 days; it was hot and very claustrophobic. In the film for the first time motors had been installed under the seats for impacts so that the actors didn't have to shake themselves around, it was done for them... "actually it was rather pleasant". On the last shot, Walter asked for the motor to be turned on under his chair. Then he said shakily, "III alwaayys lloved sppacce travellinglll..."

"You have never seen a pissed Vulcan!"

Q - When is Walter's autobiography out?

A - He is writing it - it is anecdotal, humorous, but he has run into a problem he cannot solve. The market for autobiographies of ST actors had dried up. Bill's first book was the only one that went well. Bill's second book and LN's have not done so well. He is not sure whether his will go ahead.

ROBERT PICARDO

"Have you ever worked as a stand up comedian?"

"How nice of you."

Robert - Bob - Picardo is a very funny man. He tells anecdotes about the show and

sends himself up. At the same time he is thoughtful, with many serious philosophical observations - the perfect combination in a con guest.

Bob and song

He sings, in a melodious voice, songs he has made up - laments mostly about the Doctor's lack of a name. He has asked to sing opera on the show; next season he is to be indulged. He has no ambitions in the direction of releasing a CD like Brent. He is adept at getting an audience to join in - he led the whole auditorium in a rendition of Under the Boardwalk which sounded - well - good. He is bad at selecting a key; as a result he was forced to describe the last note of his Lament for a Name as a "sonic anomaly". Many of the cast have good voices. "Tim Russ has the sort of voice you'd like to go to a nightclub to listen to."

The perils of uniform

The uniforms are "very unforgiving - you can't eat, can't go to the bathroom quickly". There are no pockets, which is a problem; he gave a short lecture on the issue of what to do with hands. You can fold your arms - it is important to check what other actors are doing so characters don't mirror each other. You can put your hands on your hips: "It looks a little fruity on a man but quite nice when Janeway does it." You can stand with your hands behind your back, which Tim Russ favours; or you can flail your arms about.

Bob needs to wear glasses. In The Caretaker he hardly saw the rest of the cast. His new contact lenses weren't ready and they wouldn't let him wear his specs. "Why would they create an emergency medical holographic program with defective vision?"

"I'm a doctor, not a nightlight"

Bob loves his role *now*, but he didn't originally want to play it. He wanted the role of Neelix; it seemed "a better role with a really cute girlfriend". As described in the paperwork, the holo doctor was "colourless and humourless" so Bob turned down the

audition and went for Neelix. He got to the last three and was disappointed when he didn't get the part. He was called back and asked to reconsider the part of the doctor; casting liked his voice. Well, he had "fallen in love with The Caretaker" and his wife had "fallen in love with the idea of a steady job". He read once for the doctor in front of the "suits". His final audition line was "No-one has terminated my program" and he found himself ad-libbing, "I'm a doctor, not a nightlight... I must have been channelling for DeForest Kelley."

Before he took the role, he was not a ST fan, though his wife was. He went to Yale where he had two friends who were fans whom he used to ridicule. When he landed the Voyager role he studied the shows for background and started to understand. He became drawn in and is now truly a fan of the mythology.

When he got the part he didn't see the possibilities at all. He "blustered his way through the pilot" which "apparently you people bought". He only realised the potential in the second episode when Kes asks him about soil samples: there were possibilities for insights into how he saw himself and his relationship with the organic characters around him. He recognises the popularity of the character; the root of the appeal is that the doctor, like Spock and Data, is an outsider, able to stand apart and comment on humanity. Also he has a dilemma; he is programmed at the top of this profession, but this is coupled with vulnerability from his lack of control over his own existence - that is why he is cranky.

"I like to embarrass myself early on in the proceedings, then I can relax."

He was asked whether he believed the doctor had a soul. He replied that he hadn't thought about it, that he was more concerned with whether he is anatomically correct. If you were programming an Emergency Holographic Medical Program, why would you make him anatomically correct... a lawsuit is waiting!"

He likes his Action Doll - "It bends in

ways that I don't... you get to play with yourself in public..." He was a bit worried when he first got the role: he thought that merchandising might just recall the Picard dolls and paint on brown hair.

Brannon Braga says that next season they will find a way to transfer the doctor to other places on the ship, and eventually on an away mission. His suggestion is that they take only his head to the planet in a goldfish bowl... then he could complain all the time. He has suggested ideas for B stories. In *Tattoo*, the programmed illness was his idea. Another idea that Jeri Taylor likes involves the creation of a second doctor from his original program when the doctor needs help with a difficult procedure. He would then be working with his original self before he adapted, with some good comic and insightful possibilities. He is not permitted to ad-lib in episodes, but ideas can be incorporated if they are presented through proper channels. In *Learning Curve*, it was his idea to be ironically sensitive when the gel packs "got sick". Also he likes to keep echoes of *Bones* alive whenever possible.

In general he has a good shooting schedule, shooting all his scenes together, but he has to be well prepared as he has a lot of dialogue. He is happy that the doctor is being given opportunities for development. He enjoyed *Heroes and Demons* and the love interest in *Lifesigns* - "It was about time". He had the good fortune to kiss Freya in *H&D*, Kes in *Projections*, Sandrean in *Twisted*. "I'm doing much better as a hologram than I ever did in real life."

Next season he will direct; he is on the in-house training programme.

Bob Picardo is full of energy. There were many more anecdotes than I have put in this report - 2x1 hour slots yielded lots of material. He is an entertaining con guest - I'd like to see him at another con.

ERIC STILLWELL

Lolita Fatjo and Eric Stillwell had short sessions, but there wasn't much info from them.

- The movie started filming April 9th - new sets, none redressed.

- Zefram Cochrane is in it.

- Worf is going to fly the *Defiant* to meet *Enterprise-E* - a sort of holiday.

- *Enterprise-E* is "a more masculine ship" - nova class.

- Everyone is cast, including the Borg queen.

- There is *no* love interest for Picard - this was only a rumour.

- It features Borg collective with a "queen".

- Jonathan Frakes is director.

- The Borg haven't been redesigned for the film, though detail has to be improved. The cubes are redesigned.

- Hugh Borg, Wesley and Whoopi are *not* in the film.

- Data keeps the emotion chip - very much touched on in the movie.

- Troi and Crusher have bigger roles.

- *Voyager* and *DS9* will have special 30th Anniversary episodes:

DS9 "one of the most unique episodes ever done for ST"; "for any of you who are real ST fans - you won't be disappointed" - links with *TOS*.

Voyager - Kang, Sulu, Rand - title Flashback - George Takei as Sulu on *Excelsior*. George is claiming that this is the pilot for the "Adventures of Captain Sulu".

- Lolita is concerned that "there's way too much ST on in Hollywood - there's a saturation of sci-fi".



An Innocent Abroad in Cardiff at WAPP 2

observations by Peter Scarisbrick

At over 2200 registrations, Cardiff's capital convention was the biggest ever held in 41 Star Trek events. The Welsh fans turned up in their numbers, despite the counter attraction at the Arms Park around the corner on the Saturday.

One consequence of such numbers was the sheer endurance required to obtain guests' autographs, both on the part of the attendees and the guests. The venue and the numbers complimented each other ensuring the large hall was filled for guest talks.

Alexander Siddig had made the journey to accompany his partner, Nana Visitor. Fed up of being called Siddig Err..., he had considered changing his name to Trumpton Womble but felt that our American cousins

would not understand the joke.

Walter Koenig mentioned that, in Star Trek VI, they had vibrating seats to simulate the ship shuddering. He said it was not an unpleasant experience. Monday morning saw Walter, Lolita Faño, Eric Stillwell and Richard Arnold attempting to come up with their fantasy Bridge crew, an imaginary Dream team akin to Fantasy Football League. Whilst Lolita tried to sleep, Walter came up with some surreal selections with Peter Pan as Captain, Geronimo as Engineer (or, Injun ear), Linus as Security Officer, Counsellor Sigmund Freud and Donald Duck as Communications Officer. A convention where events started on time, and ran to time. A feat in itself.

LEONARD NIMOY: A SELECTIVE TV AND FILMOGRAPHY

Jay Stevensen

As everyone knows, there was life before Trek for the actors concerned, and life after it, too. Seeing your favourite in other roles is often fun, and sometimes surprising.

Leonard Nimoy worked professionally for fifteen years before his association with Mr Spock made it necessary for him to take his name out of the public phone book, but like many struggling actors he always had to supplement his income with other jobs - a period in his life that he described in an interview as "character building".

He appeared in a variety of US television shows, including SEA HUNT, BONANZA, THE VIRGINIAN, GUNSMOKE, WAGON TRAIN, PERRY MASON, THE OUTER LIMITS, THE TWILIGHT ZONE and the often quoted ZOMBIES OF THE STRATOSPHERE (of which he once said "you'll have to forgive me, I needed the money") so if you enjoy watching re-runs of early TV series, and you see a face that you think looks familiar (often playing an Indian, a 'heavy' or a lawyer or reporter) look again, because yes - you were probably right. But

don't blink....the parts were often small and instantly forgettable, although in a 1961 RAWHIDE episode (INCIDENT BEFORE BLACK PASS) he actually had more lines than one of the stars - a actor called Clint Eastwood!

As the sixties progressed Leonard was offered better TV roles - or at least parts with more screen time. THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E: THE STRIGAS AFFAIR (1964) with Bill Shatner as a guest star and Leonard camping it up as a foreign ambassador's aide, is available on tape. Others that have been shown here include GET SMART: THE DEAD SPY SCRAWLS (1966), in which he plays a hit-man, and the original OUTER LIMITS: I ROBOT (1964) where he played a reporter (again) - a part missing from the recent re-make).

In the sixties Leonard also appeared in two Jean Genet films. A small role in THE BALCONY (1963), and a leading role in an independent version of DEATHWATCH (1966), which he co-produced with Vic Morrow, who also directed. This is the film

version of the play mentioned by George Takei in his autobiography. It's a creatively exciting interpretation. Watch for it, if it ever shows up on TV (unfortunately unlikely), it'll give you a chance to see if you agree with George's criticism of the future Mr Spock as "too intellectual, too cool, no star quality".

But the big screen (Trek excluded) never seems to have given Leonard the chances he deserved. A minor part in *QUEEN FOR A DAY* (1951) allowed him to see himself on film for the first time. He then played the lead in *KID MONK BARONI*, a 1952 "B" movie. Self-described as not "a thoroughly trained actor at the time", he gave a creditable performance as a young boxer with a deformed face, but other leading roles did not follow. Fifties clunkers like *THE BRAINEATERS* (a few minutes of dialogue) and *THEM* (don't blink) are probably best forgotten.

It wasn't until the post-Trek sixties and seventies that Leonard was offered some films again. *CATLOW* (shown on TNT) under-used his talents as a hired gun. *BAFFLED* (with Susan Hampshire) gave him a rare chance to play a light (semi-romantic) lead and *INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS* (shown on TV, and available on video) allowed him to do a bit of scene stealing as a psychiatrist. During this period Leonard was also involved in many theatrical productions, but apart from a video of his one-man show *VINCENT* (unavailable in England, and unlikely to appear on our TV screens), we can only speculate about his performances. They all received good reviews and encompassed a wide variety of leading roles in drama, comedy and musicals.

The post-Trek decades also gave Leonard better TV opportunities. His almost immediate post-Trek choice of Paris in *MISSION IMPOSSIBLE* proved to be creatively disappointing, and he left the show after two seasons. Other TV parts gave him better opportunities. In *COLOMBO: A STITCH IN CRIME*, which has been repeated several times on BBC, he played a heart surgeon and murderer. He directed an episode of *T J HOOKER* (*THE DECOY*) and guest starred in another (*VENGEANCE IS*

MINE). In 1976 he hosted a six season run of *IN SEARCH OF...* a documentary that might have provided the X-Files writers with a few of their ideas!

Other TV films include *MARCO POLO* (1981), *SEIZURE* (1979), and *A WOMAN CALLED GOLDA* (1981) for which he received an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Special. The submarine drama *ASSAULT ON THE WAYNE* (1971) has aired on London Weekend at least once. This is something of a Trek re-union, with Leonard in the lead, William Windom (*The Doomsday Machine*) and Malachi Throne (voice-over in *The Cage* and appearance in *Unification*) also in the cast. Direction is by Marvin Chomsky, who helmed several Classic Trek episodes.

A more recent TV film, co-produced by Leonard and directed by Joe Sargent, *NEVER FORGET* (1991), tells the real-life story of Auschwitz survivor Mel Mermelstein's legal battle with the neo-Nazi holocaust-denial group The Institute of Historical Research. This has aired several times in the US, but not (yet) in Britain. Watch for it in case it does. A good script and Leonard's beautiful and sensitive performance in the leading role (with support from a uniformly excellent cast) makes this a thought provoking and important story.

Recent years have seen Leonard Nimoy involved in a variety of other projects including directing six major films, voice-overs for animation and documentaries, a remake of *I ROBOT* (1996) and a guest appearance in *BONANZA* (1996). Two new CD's, some radio work, an update of his autobiography (including a Grammy nominated audio version), an involvement with a comic book project and directing a stage play have also kept Mr Nimoy busy.

What next, one wonders? With his current track record, and his known wide range of interests, it's anybody's guess!



STAR TREK SERIES

looked at by Alan Stephen

With the imminent demise of IDIC and the 30th Anniversary of Star Trek I'd like to take the opportunity of the penultimate issue to look back at the different Star Trek series and would welcome any comments.

Star Trek - The Original Series

It's difficult to express my feelings for the original series. I can watch this show again and again, even the worst episodes, which is something I can't say for the other ST incarnations. This series had the best stories and the unique triangle of Kirk, Spock and Bones, whose relationship reflected the human condition.

Star Trek - the Animated Series

I cannot understand why some fans ignore this series; there are some splendid episodes, in particular: How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth; The Infinite Vulcan; Slaver Weapon. OK, the animation is stiff - blame that on the limited budget on 70s TV, but this is no kid's show. If you haven't watched this in a while, give it another try.

Star Trek - The Next Generation

If it hadn't been for the casting of Patrick Stewart, I probably wouldn't have watched this programme. Patrick has been one of my favourite actors for a long time, and I knew he'd bring a professionalism and polish to the show. Initially I think TNG suffered from Gene Roddenberry's influence making the characters very stiff and correct - I don't believe that even in the far future we won't have character conflict.

The second season wasn't helped by a writers' strike, but once that was past some wonderful stories followed, especially Darmok, Inner Light and Family, though it had its fair share of stinkers - Masks and Shades of Grey, to name two.

Star Trek - Deep Space 9

DS9 is not some poor man's B5. Why can't we have two shows set on a space station? They are both different. After all, in the 60s we had Bonanza and High Chaparral, both the same type of show - but different.

I've enjoyed this series and think it's gone from strength to strength, and this recent season has been the best, though (and this surprised me) it has been spoiled by the inclusion of Worf; the two weakest episodes have been his - Way of the Warrior and Sword of Kahless.

Star Trek - Voyager

After the best pilot of all the ST series, this show is dire. They need to re-evaluate the progress of this show - the crew never seems to be in any danger stuck out so far in unexplored space. The Starfleet and Maquis get on too well. Again, no character conflict; I can't see this series lasting or becoming a classic unless they take another look at the premise for this show.

Star Trek Movies

Star Trek: The Motion Picture - Should call this the Motionless Picture - nuff said.

ST: The Wrath of Khan; ST: The Search for Spock; ST: The Voyage Home - a wonderful trilogy that sums up the magic of Star Trek

ST: The Final Frontier - I don't want to be unkind, but let's forget this one.

ST: The Undiscovered Country - Back on track with a cracking story.

ST: Generations - After watching this film again, I can only comment "What a mess it is". Things can only improve.

ST: First Contact - OK, we haven't seen this film yet, but what I've heard on the grapevine this one's a doozy; a space battle at the beginning between the Borg, DS9 and Defiant, Borgs designed by Giger and

favourite SF theme, time travel.

As to the future, I think we are seeing the beginning of the end of the Star Trek we love. If the new movie succeeds, which I think it may, the movies will continue, but as for the series, audiences seem to be dropping and interest seems to be waning. Perhaps there has been too much Star Trek? With Paramount's ostracising the fans, fan events may become much more difficult and will in essence discourage fan publications. Would the last true Star Trek fan please put off the lights on the bridge when leaving the Enterprise.

On a different note - in a recent issue of

Sci-Fi Universe, Mark Altman suggested a sequel to the DS9 James Bond spoof story Our Man Bashir. Their suggestions for titles made me giggle; hopefully they'll bring a smile to your face.

From Romulus With Love.
Dilithium is Forever.
From a View to a Trill
The Kai Who Loved Me
Latinumfinger
Live and Let Morph
Thunderorbs
You Only Beam Twice
The Man With the Golden Phaser
On Her Federation's Secret Service
Dr Nog



HOW HAS IDIC CHANGED MY LIFE

By Dejan Ladika (Slovenia)

I joined IDIC in the summer of 1992 when I was 14. I found the address of a fan club in one of the magazines and a few weeks later I got a letter from Janet saying that the club doesn't exist any more but that I can join IDIC. I did exactly that and since then this club has helped me make my dreams reality.

Since the 7th grade I wanted to be an exchange student in the USA and in my second year of high school I applied for scholarship through YFU (Youth For Understanding). I had to write a short biography and I wrote a lot about my involvement with IDIC, and I also made copies of some of my postbag letters and articles and added them to my application. At my interview the lady that interviewed me was really impressed and asked me a lot of questions about the club and my involvement.

Another thing that was very important was my English, that got better with every N/L. It forced me, in a way, to learn more words in order to understand all the stuff, and then write my own letter and put it in the N/L; and here I am today, writing this letter from the USA and living my dream.

Star Trek seems to be very confused right now. People at Paramount - or wherever they

make important decisions about Star Trek - should know that it's not all about money and try to take advantage of Star Trek just to make more money. DS9 doesn't seem to appeal to a larger audience and the addition of Michael Dorn hasn't helped either. In fact, if you ask me they really didn't have to make Worf a regular, because except for the opener of the 4th season, The Way of the Warrior, he hasn't done anything and actually became rather strange and boring. Definitely not the Worf I knew from TNG.

SPOILER ALERT The season finale, Broken Link, makes things even more complicated with Odo being judged by his people and made a solid.

Personally, I liked the second season of Voyager, but some episodes had disappointing endings. Cliffhanger was quite interesting with the crew being left on the planet with ancient animals and green people.

And because of all these things going on with series, a lot of people are disappointed and don't feel about ST as they used to, and then eventually also drop out of the fan clubs.

This disappointment could be seen in the

Postbag of the last few newsletters as well. When I joined the club, we talked about Kirk/Picard, Uhura's inability to speak Klingon, Troi's and Yar's build, Unification, communicators, and lots of other interesting stuff, and now everybody tries to find something wrong with each of the series and some sharp words are flying around.

What I'm trying to say is that I can understand Janet's, Sheila's and Valerie's decision about ending IDIC. I'd really like if they changed their minds, and maybe for a while go with only 4 N/Ls a year, but I think that's for them to decide. With the new movie coming out in November things will hopefully turn around and there will be more excitement for Star Trek.

So thank you, guys, for a great 4 years. I thought it would never end; the N/L has helped me so much I can't even tell you, and I hope you can take my success as your award for all the work you've done over the last few years.

Janet, Sheila and Valerie, if you ask yourself, "Did we make a difference?" (Captain Kirk in Generations) I can tell you right away - "Yes, you did!" I really hope you will reconsider your decision.

Thank you for everything.

No goodbyes, just good memories...



The End of an Era...

by Dave Styles

You know, one of the things I look forward to is receiving the IDIC newsletter. OK so it only comes every other month. But I can't afford to go to conventions so IDIC tells me about what other people did there. Also I'm not on the internet, so I don't get up to the minute Trek gossip. IDIC lets me know what's going on. I enjoy reading other people's articles, and most of all I love the postbag. Serious discussion, friends chatting, questions, answers, (and me and Alan Stephen winding each other up!).

I'm not sure how long I've been in IDIC now. I can remember issues of newsletters in the early twenties, so it must be at least four years. It's because of seeing what goes on in fandom through IDIC that I plucked up the courage to help in the foundation of a small local Star Trek fan club. It's through IDIC that I met my good friend Baerbel, and through her I met so many other good friends.

To begin with, I just used to read the newsletters, but eventually decided to write for them. Hesitantly at first, but later with increasing regularity. Every month I have my say in the postbag, and three of four of my articles appear each year. I must admit to feeling that I am one of the old hands of IDIC.

And now it's all over...

I can sympathise with IDIC's committee. When a hobby becomes a chore, it is time to stop. I also agree that IDIC would not, could not be the same with anyone else in the driving seat. I also think it would be wrong for us to all join (and commandeer) another Trek club. However am I really alone in not wanting it all to end?

If there's sufficient interest, and (if no one else wants to do it), I am prepared to have a go at running some sort of postal Star Trek fan club. (Though obviously NOT IDIC-2)

Name of the club, price, regularity, content... that's all details for later. For now if you want to be a part of what I'm proposing, write to me (with a big SAE) at the following address:

Dave Styles
117 Beaver Road
Ashford
Kent
TN23 7SG Phone 01233 642687

I would really welcome comments, suggestions, advice, [and offers of help

(particularly with typing !!!!) I will not be able to do this alone.

There's only one real point I think I should stress. I feel it is very important that

we don't have several competing clubs springing up. So I'd happily stand down if anyone else would rather do something along these lines. If anyone is planning to, please get in touch with me; I'd like to join!

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



• **OBJECTIVE - BAJOR** by John Peel DS9 15 Pocket Books Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The Hive has come from one of the Magellenic Clouds, an enormous spacecraft which has taken many thousands of years to cross intergalactic space at impulse speed. It has already attacked and destroyed one inhabited planet, taking all the mineral and organic resources of that world to refuel itself and, refuelled, has split into two; one of the two heading for Cardassia Prime and the other for Bajor - their purpose, to use those planets also for fuel before heading onwards.

I both liked and disliked this book. The idea was good, but I felt Mr Peel had problems with his presentation of it. Instead of taking one POV, he tried to handle several - parts were written from the POV of the Bajorans, parts were Cardassian, parts were Sisko, but much of it was done from the POV of the aliens who lived in the Hive.

I was left with the impression that what Mr Peel actually had was a SF plot he had tried, with a degree of success, to turn into a DS9 story. The aliens were very well-developed, with casual phraseology that told a great deal about them; but basically, it was *their* story. Their attitudes and motivations were well and fully developed. The DS9 characters who were looking at what they saw as unreasonable invaders were almost incidental to the story in spite of their involvement taking fully half the book.

Having said that, the DS9 characters were all well enough developed and in character; it was just that the alien "hero" was such a sympathetic character as well as being, in my opinion, the main character in the book.

I'm all in favour of "grey" plots and

characterisations - something TOS in particular was good at - where all the characters, on both sides, have a point of view that is valid to them, no matter how it may appear to others. I'm also in favour of what you might call "local" problems - ones involving just one planet, not the imminent destruction of the universe. This book certainly fits those preferences of mine. As a science fiction story I'd give it 8 - it's not entirely original, the theme of generation ships crossing the intergalactic (or even just interstellar) void has been tackled before. As Trek, I'd give it nearer 6, because I felt the reader's sympathies were, perhaps deliberately, directed towards the needs of the main alien character rather than any of the Trek characters. To have been a purely Trek story, I think it would have needed a lot more about the actions and reactions of the DS9 characters (Bajoran, Cardassian and Human) and the aliens left less sympathetic until closer to the end. So, on average, it gets a reasonable 7/10.

• **CYBERSONG** by S N Lewitt Voyager 8 Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Voyager is drawn into an area of space Neelix describes as The Singing Quarter; an area where many ships have disappeared without trace. Even when they try to change course, the ship is still drawn inexorably onwards until they find a "graveyard" of ships where they are trapped, with a food supply that is steadily diminishing much faster than it ought to be.

The plot is fairly lightweight, being a sort of retelling of the Sirens story, but the writer deserves credit for managing to produce a reasonably interesting 277-page story out of such a thin plot. This is partly accomplished by leaning fairly solidly on character study;

the writer not only knows why the characters are behaving as they are, he (she?) has made sure the reader knows it too, but it has been done skilfully enough that the reader doesn't feel knocked on the head by a briefcase full of facts about the characters.

I did feel that the crew's suspicions about the possible presence of a Cardassian spy were somewhat paranoid, given that the ship had already had one Cardassian aboard (in Seska) - would it *really* have had two? I also felt that Medical would have had some record of the psychological file on Mandel, the major "guest" character, and that the Captain would have been given an indication that Mandel was a loner who preferred working with her computers 24 hours a day to socialising with her crewmates.

My biggest criticism of the book is that I found the ending too abrupt - almost as if, somewhere around P260, the writer suddenly realised that he had a page limit and he only had around 15 pages left in which to resolve everything. Not that he needed much more, but a little more detail would have been nice.

All in all, a pleasant if undemanding read. 7/10.

• **INSIDE STAR TREK - The Real Story**
Herbert Solow & Robert Justman Pocket
£19.99 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This book comes in three linked parts; one is straightforward narrative, giving bare facts; the other two parts are personal comments by the two writers; how they saw the events and their thoughts about them. There are also reproductions of some internal memos, etc.

Obviously there is a lot in this book that the long-term fan knows, but a lot of the stories are given a different perspective. There are also some details and incidents that were new to me. The writing moves smoothly and interestingly and the reader finds himself carried effortlessly from page to page.

In some ways, at the price, this is a book for the completist, since it only covers the

original series; fans of TNG will find only the barest mention of the series at the very end of the book, and fans of DS9 and Voyager will find nothing about "their" series, since neither author had anything to do with those. These are primarily the personal memoirs of Messrs Solow & Justman, dealing only with their involvement with Trek and taking little at second hand in the form of interviews with actors, etc, although they have credited a number of people with giving them additional information. Fans of the original series, however, will find plenty to interest them, including some interesting differences in stories that are already quite well-known.

The book finishes with a quick and interesting run-down on some of the people involved in original Trek and what they are doing now. Well worth reading.

• **CINEFANTASTIQUE July 1996 issue**
Special Double Issue - Star Trek 30th Anniversary. Reviewed by Alan Stephen

This magazine began about the same time as Star Trek, and has followed Star Trek's progress through its various incarnations. Their 20th and 25th Anniversary issues are great reads, and this issue is no different. Their Trek experts concentrate on the original series, and have collected a series of articles and interviews that celebrate the hard work of the people behind the scenes, and the stars. They have unearthed photos and facts that even I, a fan from the early days, have never seen.

I know this magazine is expensive - £8.10 - but it is well worth every penny.

• **"THE PHYSICS OF STAR TREK"** book just found in Manchester for 12.99, introduction by Stephen Hawking, the well known TNG bit player... publisher Harper Collins, ISBN 0-00-225485-9. Reviewed by Stephen Shaw

This is a slim little hardback of 188 pages including a comprehensive index. The author is Lawrence M Krauss, a Professor of Physics. Considering what we have read about Paramount getting difficult with use of their franchise, it is interesting to see that the

book does not mention their name by way of acknowledgement (although Stephen Hawking indicates they did not cash in his poker chips...) - no mention of their copyright or trademark interests. Only the wrap around cover contains a disclaimer, "This book was not prepared, approved, licensed or endorsed by any entity involved in creating or producing the Star Trek television series or films" - that's it folks! Discard the cover and no disclaimer... odd!

I have some background in the Sciences (to A Level), and found the book very readable, especially with its frequent references to named episodes of Trek.

The book explores the science of Trek in the light of our present knowledge, and at what might be, and at what is impossible but good for storytelling. An example - in DS9, one episode deals with a machine which alters the laws of probability. Dax discovers this by noting that virtually all the neutrinos spin in one direction. This would have been worth noting - but not as stated in the story because there were "missing" neutrinos spinning in the other direction. Neutrinos are the only natural particles known which appear to exist spinning in one direction only....

I found it an interesting book, easy to read and obviously written by someone who knows their Trek quite well!

CIC VIDEO REVIEWS - by Christopher Howell

ST:DS9 Vol. 4.5 - Sword of Kahless/Our Man Bashir

Kor, the only Klingon survivor from *Blood Oath*, arrives on DSN with news about the legendary *Sword of Kahless*, missing for 1400 years. After recruiting his blood brother Dax, and Lt. Worf, the three adventurers go to the Gamma Quadrant in search of the artefact which could unite the Klingon Empire, or divide it for ever....

After a long pre-title act, *Sword of Kahless* settles into a Klingon talk feast. Kor's speech before the Runabout enters the Wormhole certainly sets the mood for the quest, but it's

a quest with flaws. The Sword is too easily retrieved, considering that the Vulcans couldn't deactivate the forcefield, while an adversary from Worf's past makes an *extremely* unlikely appearance. Then again, the friction which develops between the two warriors thanks to the sword makes for entertaining viewing. The biggest surprise is Worf's attempt to fulfil his 'destiny' by attempting to....well, you'll see. I appreciate the writers attempting to show how the sword could divide the Empire, but it still came as a shock to see Worf behave like this. Shades of Grey indeed....5/10

"....*There's only one sword and you both want it*" Dax ST:DSN *Sword of Kahless*

Dr Bashir is relaxing in the holosuite, playacting as a 1960's secret service agent, when he's joined by an 'unwanted guest'. While Garak persuades Bashir to let him stay, Sisko and company's runabout is sabotaged. While beaming them out, the transporter malfunctions, and Eddington orders the computer to wipe enough memory to save the crew's patterns before they are lost. Back in the holosuite, Bashir and Garak are surprised when one of the characters looks like DSN's First Officer! Trapped in a program which they can't freeze or exit, the two spies attempt to save the crew while staying alive themselves...

Our Man Bashir is based on one of those early Bond movies, and the attention to detail at times is amazing. For once, holodeck technology actually saves the crew, who turn up as various holo-characters. The music is great throughout, while there's some great exchanges between the fantasy spy and the unemployed spy. Special mention goes to Nana Visitor for a great Russian accent, and Avery Brooks who excels as the Mad Scientist. The only flaw here is the early demise of Mona Luvsitt. Oh well, you can't have everything....10/10

"Who am I to question Julian Bashir, Secret Agent....." Garak ST:DSN *Our Man Bashir*

ST:DS9 Vol. 4.6 - Homefront/Paradise Lost

A conference between the Federation and the Romulan Empire on Earth is interrupted

by a bomb of unknown design, resulting in the deaths of 27 people. Upon viewing a tape of the explosion, a piece of pottery is seen changing shape...Sisko and Odo, being Starfleet's only experts on Changelings, are called to Earth to consult with them on fighting the Dominion....

Homefront is the first of a two-part story, and it attempts to do two things at the same time - present the shapeshifters as a threat to 'Paradise', and introduce DSN fans to Ben Sisko's restaurant-owning father (wonderfully played by Brock Peters). As a result, the pace of the episode is somewhat uneven. Despite that, it's worthwhile viewing. The Sisko family moments are nice, and a lot of Benjamin's background is revealed here. I loved the way Sisko and Leyton convinced the Federation President about the Changeling threat, while the Climax is a great set-up for part two. 8/10

"Mr President, I assure you the threat is real...." Admiral Leyton, ST:DSN *Homefront*

It's feared that a cloaked Jem'Hadar warfleet may be on the way to Earth, and with changelings on the planet, armed Starfleet officers are on the streets, random blood tests are in effect, and marital law has been declared. Sisko and Odo however, have reason to wonder if the Dominion is the immediate threat to Earth....

A good examination of how easily fear and paranoia can change our beliefs and ourselves, *Paradise Lost* offers us the sort of drama which has been seen elsewhere before, but which is original on the whole for Trek. There's some good debates involving Sisko, The President and Admiral Leyton, but the highlight of part two is Sisko's conversation with 'O'Brien'. The Defiant also makes a slick, if brief appearance. Not quite as strong as *Homefront*, but it does have its moments. The Regular cast are supported well by Susan Gibney (TNG's Dr. Leah Brahms) and Robert Foxworth....7.5/10

"...In the end, it's your own fear that will destroy you..." Changeling, ST:DSN *Paradise Lost*

ST:VOY Vol. 2.5 - Prototype/Alliances

When Voyager finds a robot floating in space, the crew beam it on-board. Curious about its Delta Quadrant technology, B'Elanna attempts to re-activate its systems, before discovering that it will do anything to help its side achieve victory....

Prototype features one of the the best pre-title acts seen in Trek. Jonathan Frakes lets us see through the robot's eyes as it floats through space, its vision distorted by static, before it's found by a starship and beamed on board. After a great start the story slows down somewhat as Torres asks for advice on reactivating the robot, before it picks up again when Automotive Unit 3947 'persuades' the Chief Engineer to break the Prime Directive. The back story to the robots has been seen before, but don't let that put you off watching *Prototype*, which features a great performance from Roxann Biggs Dawson. 7/10

"If you fail, you and your people will die" Command Unit 6263 ST:Voy

After another Kazon attack on Voyager, Janeway has to face growing doubt among the crew over her beliefs in Starfleet policy. After talking to Tuvok, she decides to entertain the idea of forming an alliance with the Kazon to protect the ship from further attacks....

Alliances hammers home the fact that not all of the crew is willing to die upholding Starfleet policy in the Delta Quadrant. There's great scenes between Janeway/Chakotay and Janeway/Tuvok, before the story reveals more about the Kazon and their former masters, the Trade, making a debut appearance. *Alliances* is one of the highlights of Season 2 so far, due to it being a Delta-Quadrant story which works well. An on-going traitor storyline also begins here. As for the ending, 'trust no one....' 8/10

"As Captain, you're responsible for making decisions in the best interests of your crew, and think you have to ask yourself, if you doing that..." Chakotay ST:Voy *Alliances*



ON LINE

compiled by Janet Quarton

I haven't had time to try out many of these myself but I hope you find them useful.

WARP 10 - the best way to get the latest Star Trek news. To subscribe, email endless@kaiwan.com saying that you would like to join the mailing list.

Pocket Books proudly presents the OFFICIAL STAR TREK NOVEL website:
<http://www.simonsays.com/startrek>

For a couple of JPEGs of renderings of the Enterprise-E by Larry Rosenthal visit:
<http://www.cube3.com/starbase.htm>

A few pictures from the new ST8 are available at the following WWW site:
<http://www.umn.edu/nlhome/g249/heuer004/TREK/trek-movie-pix.html>

The June 21, 1996, Entertainment Tonight story to the Star Trek: First Contact page is available at:
<http://www.cdsnet.net/vidiot/st-fc/>

The SciFi Channel story on Star Trek: Deep Space Nine's Terry Farrell is available at:
<http://www.cdsnet.net/vidiot/st-ds9/scifibuzz.html>

The Starland Online Magazine has all the latest information on today's hottest Sci-Fi and TV topics.
Visit Starland Online Magazine at:
<http://starland.com/>
or
E-Mail your address to:
starland@starland.com

StarTrek TNG, DS9, VOY, Ships, Sounds, Misc., etc.. come and have some fun!
<http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/ageyn>

Visit the Star Trek: First Contact web page located at
<http://www.magi.com/~chrishar/stgniifc/stgii.htm>.

This site includes media, pictures of the cast members, links, the new plot, the cost,

pictures (including the new Enterprise E), and info related to the new movie.

Official Klingon Imperial Diplomatic Corps (KIDC) Domain and Website, located at:
<http://www.klingon.org>

There's a new site that gives convention listings for Star Trek and other SF shows, along with Comic Book and Gaming conventions. The URL is
<http://conventions.ezon.com>

Fans of Brent Spiner should visit the Data/Brent Spiner fan page on the World Wide Web. It features information on Data, Brent Spiner, other cast members, the upcoming movie, and other tidbits of Trek News found. It also features many pictures of Brent Spiner and Data collected from various sources.
<http://www.geocities.com/hollywood/6937/>

Star Trek Mailing lists

Dateline: Starfleet originates from the America Online "Star Trek: The Club" forum. If you would like to be added to the "Dateline: Starfleet" Mailing List, please E-mail listserv@listserv.aol.com and place the message SUBSCRIBE DATELINE your-full-name in the body of the E-mail. (Substitute your name for "your-full-name".

Cardassians-I
Owner: Alt.StarTrek.Cardassian admin
To subscribe: send an e-mail message to listserv@netcom.com with the following text in the body of the message:
subscribe cardassians-I

Description: The list is dedicated to discussions about the Cardassian species, and the actors that play them.

*** DS9-Talk** Owner: Dave Sturm
To subscribe: send an e-mail message to Majordomo@stargame.org with the following text in the body of the message:

subscribe DS9-Talk your e-mail address
Description: This list serves but one purpose,

to allow the free exchange of ideas concerning DEEP SPACE NINE exclusively.

* Romulan-L Owner: Sirius T. Bontea

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to majordomo@ilhawaii.net with the following text in the body of the message:

subscribe Romulan-L

Description: Mailing list for discussions and speculations of things regarding Romulans, their culture, their language, and anything else pertaining to this aspect of Star Trek.

* Spaced Owner: James Eagan

Homepage: <http://www.branson.org/students/James/spaced.html>

To subscribe: subscribe via homepage.

Description: The SPACED list is a discussion forum devoted specifically to the discussion of Space Science Fiction (i.e. Star Trek, Star Wars, Babylon 5, etc). Here, we can debate why some of those "little inconsistencies" that pop-up in science fiction shows actually occur, and if there really are ways to get around them (i.e. faster-than-light travel, do transporters actually work, etc).

* Star Trek Humour League (STHL-L)

Owners: Lori A. Martin and Sharelle Thornton

Homepage: <http://www.execpc.com/~lam/sthl.html>

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to listserv@hearn.nic.surfnet.nl with the following text in the body of the message:

SUBSCRIBE STHL-L YourFirstName YourLastName

Description: STHL-L is the Star Trek Humour League. Join the crew of the USS Radish on their bewildering flight...er assignment from SaladFleet Headquarters, to chart unknown regions of Trek humour and record unknown plant life in the Galaxy!

* StarTrek Technologists

Owner: Alex M. Lock

Homepage: <http://www.spectra.net/~vader/tech/technolo.html>

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to majordomo@virek.worcester.com with the following text in the body of the message: subscribe stt your-email-address

Description: The Star Trek Technologists are

a group of Star Trek fans dedicated to the discussion and sharing ideas about the technical, and general sides of Trek!

Appropriate topics for this list are:

1) Anything pertaining to the technical side of Star Trek. i.e. Someone asks how many decks a certain class starship is and you answer.

2) Request for resource locations. i.e. You post asking where to find a good photo archive on the WWW.

3) Announcements of new publications such as a new Web site or manual.

4) Anything that appears relevant to Trek. NO POSTING BINARIES!

5) Anything relating to the WWW site, comments, tips, additions, etc.

* Star Trek: Voyager

Owner: Mikael Rechtsman

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to listserv@ufp.ccinet.ab.ca with the following text in the body of the message:

subscribe voyager

Description: This Mailing List has daily discussion about the events regarding Star Trek: Voyager. A wide variety of topics surrounding Star Trek: Voyager are discussed, and there are no constraints by the manager of only speaking of the one topic. Topics, although mainly based upon Voyager, waive to the original series, The Next Generation, or Deep Space 9.

* Stardate [new] Owner: Seth Dilday

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to seth@aplus.com with the following text in the body of the message:

subscribe stardate

Description: Weekly e-mail newsletter with lots of Star Trek: Voyager news and information.

* Strek-L Owner: Alicia Mowlai-Ashtiani

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to Majordomo@stargame.org with the following text in the body of the message:

subscribe Strek-L your e-mail address

Description: This list serves but one purpose, to allow the free exchange of ideas concerning the *all* of the STAR TREK television series (the original "TOS" and the Next Generation "TNG", Deep Space 9 "DS9" and Voyager "VOY") , the motion pictures,

conventions, trivia, memorabilia, and other related subjects.

* **Trek-cochavim** Owner: Michael Rand

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to listserv@shamash.nysernet.org with the following text in the subject of the message:

SUB trek-cochavim your name

Description: Trek-cochavim is an unmoderated discussion list for those who want to discuss the Star Trek world from a Jewish or Israeli perspective. This includes Jewish and Israeli history, culture, and theology, politics and culture, literature and film, philosophy, and social thought. Some ideas for discussion include ideas, tips and suggestions on roles Jews would have, and different ways plots could have developed if Jews had been present in the series.

* **TrekTalk** Owner: Leigh Galfney

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to trektalk-request@netsplit.phoenix.net with the following text in the subject of the message:

subscribe

Description: General Star Trek related chat.

* **Trekwrtr** Owner: Kasey Chang

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to Majordomo@stargame.org with the following text in the body of the message:

subscribe trekwrtr your e-mail address

Description: Star Trek Script Writers's mailing list is a public mailing list designed to provide a stomping grounds for those interested in submitting DEEP SPACE NINE and eventually VOYAGER scripts to Paramount. All topics of interest to Trek Script Writing (format, craft, moral support, pitch stories, information from Trek writing cons, series discussions from a writing POV, etc.) are welcome.

* **Vulcan-L**

Owner: owner-vulcan-l@netcom.com

To subscribe: send an e-mail message to listserv@netcom.com with the following text in the body of the message:

subscribe Vulcan-L your e-mail address

Description: Mailing list for discussions and speculations of things regarding the Star Trek planet and culture of Vulcan.

[Sources of information include Ruben Macias' Warp 10 & Engage.]



ZINE REVIEWS

• IDIC LOG 19

Reviewed by Jean Sloan

"Life would become tedious indeed if we all believed and acted exactly as everyone else. It is our diversity which allows us to grow. Without that requisite variety, our culture would atrophy. I am still learning..."

Sarek to Spock in Conversation Peace by Brenda Kelsey

Now I need a reason for quoting from Brenda's story... The zine is about growing and changing, but I am really quoting because the words struck a chord - a reminder of what IDIC is all about.

Anyway, to the zine. And I will start with

Brenda's story which offers an unusual angle on, and a secret about, the Gorkon peace treaty in ST:VI; in fact, Brenda, I think there is more story lurking there waiting to be told. Conversation Peace examines the aftermath of the ST:VI conspiracy, the settling of the Enterprise crew into new roles, the launching of Spock on his diplomatic career. There is a certain poignancy in this story because it marks Kirk's separation from Spock, but it is not pessimistic as it offers new horizons for Sulu, Uhura and Spock. We get to see Sulu as Captain, and Spock's relationship with his father.

The zine is a particularly strong one. The first story is one that I had been waiting for ever since I heard a rumour that it was being written. It is Jacquie Comben's rewrite of the end of Generations, and it is an absolute must

for everyone who thought that Kirk's death in the film was *** (supply a suitable colourful metaphor). Anyway, Ribbon of Flame neatly restores Kirk to his natural place in the scheme of things - by Spock's side to go off into a future where they can continue to grow. On the way to the conclusion of the VERY neat plot which actually sorts out some of the illogic of Soran's methods in the film, Jacquie offers one of the best and funniest McCoy stories I have ever read when the good Doctor is forced to take passage on an inter-stellar liner. Ribbon of Flame is not a gut-wrenching hurt/comfort story; it is a logical conclusion to the film which reads like an episode and where the characters behave like themselves. I hope that that is sufficiently enigmatic to make you want to read it...

The Deltan Way by Alan Butler is another story leading to the growth and development of Kirk and Spock. The plot centres on Delta and Ilia's people, looking more closely at their culture than TMP does. Ilia's metamorphosis onto a higher plane of being has afflicted the Deltan race who have deep empathic awareness of each other; as their group consciousness does not understand what has happened to Ilia, Deltans are lapsing into coma. X'ian, a Deltan ambassador, has been despatched to seek the help of those who were present at Ilia's transcendence. Kirk, Spock and McCoy go to Delta to investigate. Alongside the plot with its interesting insight into Deltan culture, there is strong Kirk/Spock relationship story exploring the nature of their empathic understanding as Kirk tries to sort out his post-Kolinahr relationship with the Vulcan.

Sick Bay Incident by Alan Boag runs true to Alan's trademark which is to create a story from a one-liner, a commonly used expression or a saying upon which the story then hinges. This story is really suspenseful; I cannot tell you the relevant phrase because it would ruin the plot. Alan's stories are always very tightly written; this one works very well.

There is poetry, too. Christine Jones offers The Longing Within and A Lasting

Gift which echo what I have decided is the theme of the zine, a vision of future. My Turn Now by Mrs Pippin shows McCoy getting one over on Spock, based on the episode The Empath - it has a certain poignancy. Green Fingers by Gill Moran analyses Sarek's relationship with Amanda, using their garden at Shikahr as a metaphor; this poem has joined my list of all time favourite ST poems.

This zine is a good example of fanzines being better than the professional novels. I think it is the last IDIC Log; it is a fitting finale to the series.

NEW ZINES

See zine ads for ordering details.

Gloria Fry

CHILDREN OF THE SUN Kirk and Spock are stranded on an unknown planet where they face many dangers. They must search for those who brought them there and find some way of returning to the Enterprise. A4 96 pages. UK £5.50. Europe £6.50 or (£5+3 IRCs). Art by Maggie Symon, Raymond Sless and Joanna McGrory includes gorgeous portraits of Kirk, Spock and aliens.





ZINE ADS

Send Zine Ads to Sheila. We reserve the right to edit for length. Adverts will be printed in one newsletter only and added to a zine flyer which is available on request. Send updates with details of new zines for future newsletters.

"Age statement required" means the zine will be sold only to readers who are legally adults.

Zines referred to as K/S or "/" indicate zines with a homosexual element.

Zine Flyer - for a more detailed list of available zines send an SAE plus an extra 25p stamp to Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

IDIC/Scotpress

All zines A5, UK Price includes postage. Rest of Europe add £0.50 per zine.

UNCHAINED MEMORIES by Nicole Comtet - the last part of the Spock/T'Pol/Kahlan trilogy begun in Return to the Source and Blow Black. £2.90

IDIC LOG 19 - short stories, featuring a rewrite of Generations by Jacqueline Comben. £2.80

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 94 - Kirk learns the consequences of breaking the Prime Directive; Kirk and Spock become friends; Joanna McCoy arrives on board... married to Spock; Uhura arranges a party; others. £2.55

MAKE IT SO 26 - TNG genzine featuring Let Us Prey by Christine Carr. There is a serious problem on Exa III. £2.55

Many other zines available. Send SAE for full list with description. Titles are - Enterprise-Log Entries 82, 86 - 89 (A4), 92, 93 & 94 (A5); IDIC Log 4 - 15 (A4), 17 & 18 (A5); Make It So 6, 8 - 13 (A4), 25 (A5); Capriccio Italien by Sue Jones; Lovely - a Little Problem by Brenda Kelsey; Orcadia by Joyce Devlin and a few other titles where there are fewer than 10 copies left.

Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill

Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted but please add 5p per £1 (or part of £1) to your total order.

We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Send submissions of TNG, DS9 & VOYAGER material to Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

BJO TRIMBLE'S SCI-FI SPOTLIGHT

A bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. It is full of news and well worth having. Sample copy \$3 USA, \$4 elsewhere. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$15. Make cheques/money orders payable to: 8000-Trekker. Bjo Trimble's Sci-Fi Spotlight, c/o 800-Trekker, P.O. Box, 13131, Reading PA 19612-3131 USA.

Foreign subscriptions: Contact the Subscription Agent nearest to you for local rates before writing to the U.S. address.

Canada: Star Trek Association of Regina, POB 36007, Regina, Sask, S4S 7H6 Canada.

United Kingdom Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN.

Europe: Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 21365 Adendorf, Germany

Australia: Shayne McCormack 49 Orchard Road, Bass Hill, NSW 2197, Australia.

Orient: Masako Noguchi, 1-9-1 1006 Chikko Minato-ku, Osaka 552, Japan.

Bjo needs regular writers for every subject covered in Sci-Fi Spotlight. She does not need a whole page on every subject - 1 page is the maximum, half a column is more usual - but *does* need the column written by someone who knows the subject. For example, Sci-Fi Spotlight currently has very little on horror. (If the article is too long, Bjo can/will edit to length.) Send Bjo a self-addressed envelope

and 2 IRCs for an info sheet on what she needs.

Lindsey J Shelton


LOVE AT FIRST Q - While reminiscing over his encounters with the Enterprise, Q realises the true reason behind his fascination with Humanity. Now taking female form, Q embarks on a campaign to prove to Picard the depths of her feelings. (Some scenes are adult in nature but *not* explicit.) A sloppy romance. UK price £4.00. Order from 94 Parkes St, Smethwick, Warley, W Midlands B67 6BH

New Zines by Gloria Fry

CHILDREN OF THE SUN Kirk and Spock are stranded on an unknown planet where they face many dangers. They must search for those who brought them there and find some way of returning to the Enterprise. A4

96 pages. UK £5.50. Europe £6.50 or (£5+3 IRCs). Art by Maggie Symon, Raymond Sless and Joanna McGrory includes gorgeous portraits of Kirk, Spock and aliens.

SLAVEWORLD - Third Printing: On an alien planet where the humanoid population are subjugated by vulcanoids, Kirk is captured by slave-traders and sold to a brutal owner. Spock disguises himself as a member of the ruling class in an attempt to rescue his captain. A4 88 pages. UK £5.50. Europe - as above. **WARNING: ALTHOUGH NOT EXPLICIT THIS STORY CONTAINS ADULT THEMES. ONLY SUITABLE FOR READERS OVER 16.** Art by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless includes lovely portraits of Kirk, Spock and the villain, Lord Zuma.

THESE AND OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE from Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW G41 3XG, Scotland. 

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

Conventions

FAN CONVENTION DIARY - a fan production funded by voluntary contribution. It is completely independent of any fan group or organisation, and exists to provide details of conventions and similar events throughout the year. The diary lists both Star Trek and other media conventions. Send an SAE for a copy to Anne Page, 30 Fellowes Way, Broadway, Stevenage, Herts SG2 8BW.

DELTA QUADRANT 9th - 11th August 1996. Britannia Hotel, Birmingham. A Star Trek convention which also covers a whole range of science fiction and fantasy. Details from Infinite Frontiers Conventions, PO Box 8966, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5ST.

CONCORDE 42nd British Star Trek Convention. 23rd-26th August 1996, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London. It is a charity event. Registration for full weekend from 1/1/96 £33 rising to £35

on 1/5/96. Confirmed guests (subject to work commitments): William Campbell (Trelane, Kolothe), Patricia Tallman - TNG, DS9, Voyager; stunt co-ordinator on Generations: telepath Lyta Alexander in B5. Also Eric Stillwell; Ray Harryhausen, pioneer of stop-motion SFX; John Carrigan - actor/stuntman; Matt Irvine BBC SFX man; Lee Sullivan - TekWars comic artist; Doug Millard from The Science Museum; Steve Wilson - mythologist. Also video rooms, parties, dealers' and full science and alternative sci-fi programmes. For full details send SAE to: 138 Crosslands, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes MK14 6DF.

LIGHTSPEED '96 13-15th September, 1996. The Leeds Hilton National, Leeds. Star Trek 30 year celebration. USA Guest Barbara March (Lursa). Other Guests Dr Jack Cohen, Debbie Griffin (US Agent), Tim Gaskill nad Robert Hollocks. Rates £35 for full registration. Reduced rates for Children/One day registrations. A packed programme of events including Guest talks, Competitions, Videos, Dealers, Disco and lots more. SAE for information and registration form to: Lightspeed '96, 16 Bramwell St., Eastwood,

Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

House, Ipsley street, Redditch B98 7AR.

CONSTITUTION III 27th to 29th September, 1996. Manor Hotel, Hever Court Road, Gravesend Kent. Guests (subject to commitments): Ian Inglis and Dr Sandy Wolfson, lecturers at the University of Northumbria, who recently presented a report to the British Psychological Society on Star Trek fans which challenges the media's portrayal of 'Trekkies'. Registration: Full £20, 5-16/disabled £10, under 5's free. Room rate £29.50 pppn for twin/double room. SAE for info to Tina Hewett, 115 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YH.

MIDCON 15. Europe's longest running Star Trek Convention. October 4th-6th, 1996. Holiday Inn, Leicester. Confirmed guest, Chase Mastersen (Leeta, DS9). For details send SAE to: Midcon 15, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

ASSIMILATION - The Double Main Event at the Britannia Hotel, Daventry. 11th - 14th October 1996. Guests so far: Andrew Robinson (Garek - DS9), Jason Carter (Marcus Colc - Babylon 5), with more guests to be added. Full Reg £35, other rates available. SAE to Allanah Scott, 101 Sharnesbury Ave., South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0PP.

NORCON 16-17 November 1996. Everglade Hotel, Derry City, Co. London. N. Ireland. Theme: 30 years of Star Trek Fandom. SAE for info to Norcon, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon Town Co. Clare, Ireland.

CHRISTMAS STAR TREK SPECIAL (Stargazer Productions) 7th and 8th December 1996. Wembley Arena, London, As a prequel to the 10th anniversary of the Next Generation and celebrating the release of the 8th Star Trek movie: live on Stage, cast members of "Star Trek The Next Generation". Standard Seating £25 per day; privileged Seating £35 per day + £3.50 administration cost. If tickets purchased for both days then a 10% discount is applied. For more information Phone 0891 517037 (calls cost 39p per min cheap rate and 49p per min at all other times in the U.K. or write to: Stargazer Productions International ltd, 4 Aspenwood

PEGASUS '97 Star Trek/Scienc Fiction Convention. 31st Jan - 2nd Feb 1997. Hilton National Hotel, Coventry. Charity - Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Confirmed guest Dennis Ashton. Other to be announced. Events include videos, talks, competitions. Full Adult Registration £30. Reduced rates for child and day registrations. Special Accomodation rates for weekend. Send SAE for info to Pegasus '97, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S65 1RZ.

3rd ANNUAL STAR FLEET BALL 14 - 16 February 1997. Bournemouth, Bournemouth Moat House Hotel. Three days of Guest Speakers, quizzes, huge dealers room and to cap it a three course meal, cabaret and epic disco. Contact Anne Lindup, Five Elms, Holtwood, Nr Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 7DT WWW: <http://whirligig.ecs.soton.ac.uk/~shd94/index.html>

WOLF 359 THE MISSION (The 43 British Star Trek Convention) 2nd - 5th May 1997 Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Registration: Adult Full £40.00, 2 Day £28.50, 1 day £17.00. Child (7-14 yrs) Full £23.00, 2 Day £17.50, 1 day £10.00. Registration closes on 25 April 1997. Wolf 359, 141 Waarden Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9BE.

CONTINUUM, The Scottish Star Trek Convention, 28 - 30 June 1997 at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel. **50th Anniversary. They're back!** First, Roswell, New Mexico, 1947. Now, Glasgow, Scotland, 1997 - Continuum are proud to present confirmed guests Armin Shimerman & Max Grodenchik (Quark & Rom) (subject to work commitments). Registration rates £40. All proceeds to charity. For details contact Continuum, P.O.Box 3822, Thornliebank, Glasgow G46 8LE.

TEROK NOR (44th British Star Trek Convention. 22nd - 25th August 1997, The Radisson Edwardian, London. Registration (in advance): Adult Full £35.00, 2 Day £25.00, 1 day £15.00. Child (under 16) Full £17.00, 2 Day £12.50, 1 day £7.50. Registration (on door): Adult Full £38.00, 2 Day £27.00, 1 day

£16.00. Child (under 16) Full £23.50, 2 Day £13.50, 1 day £8.00. Hotel rates (Edwardian): single £43 pppn, twin/double £36 pppn; triple £30 pppn. Guest talks, Spacious Dealers Rooms. Theme Parties, Games, Quizzes, Disco, club room, panels and discussion groups, Large Video rooms. The Hotel is 5 star with every modern convenience including full en suite facilities and lissauer complex. SAE for info to Terok Nor, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG.

VIENNA CON '97: Oct 17th - 19th, 1997 at the Austrotel, Vienna. Guests: Richard Arnold, actors from both TNG and classic. Registration rates: - Oct 15th, 1996 ATS 1000,-, - May 15th 1997 ATS 1.100,- thereafter ATS 1.200,-. Information and registration: Galactic Friendship c/o Karin Embacher, Krottenbachstr. 104/2/3, A-1190 Wien, Austria

OTHER EVENTS

CULT TV 1996 25th - 28th October 1996. Venue: Haven Action Centre, Caister, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Registration: £34 before 30/4/1996, £39 between 1/5/96 and 31/8/96, £44 between 1/9/96 and 21/10/96. Cult TV covers many TV programmes including: Star Trek, Babylon 5, The X-Files, VR5, Sliders, The Avengers, Dr Who, Red Dwarf, Blake's Seven, Q Leap, and The Prisoner. For more information send an email to me at 101330,2476. Please include your postal address. 2. Send your name and address to Cult TV 1996 (CIS), PO Box 1701, Peterborough PE1 1EX

THE SIXTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 8th-10th, 1966, at the Stakis (Victoria) Hotel, Nottingham. A programme of films spanning the career of Leonard Nimoy and including manly rarely, if ever, seen in Britain. Registration fee £25.00. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

WHO'S 7 STRIKES BACK (WHO'S 7 1996) 26/27 October 1996 at the Ashford International Hotel, Ashford, Kent. Full registration £45 - supporting £20.00. Guests

(subject to work commitments): Gareth Thomas, Paul Darrow, Sylvester McCoy, Sophie Aldred, Sally Knyvette & Martin Bower. Videos, games and lots of other things! Contact: Who's 7 Strikes Back, 10 Filebrook Hall, Filebrook Road, Leytonstone, London E11 1AG, England. E-Mail: lexin@cix.compulink.co.uk.

FANTASTICON U.K. 24 - 26 May 1997. Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Cult TV/ Radio. (Star Trek, Star Wars, X Files, B5, Dr Who, Avengers, the Prisoner, Sherlock Holmes etc). Lots of guest actors, authors and scientists. Harrogate International Conference Centre, Harrogate, Yorks. SASE's please to: Fantasticon UK, 38 Planetree Avenue, Fenham, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 9TH.

VOYAGE 97 the 2nd British Convention devoted to 'Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea'. 25th-27th July 1997, Novotel, Sheffield. Reg: £30 until 31/7/96 then £35. A small friendly convention with a full programme. For further info and registration form send SAE to: Voyage 97, 15 Fullers Court, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DZ.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Maria E Kelly, 616 So. Canyon St, Nampa, ID 83686-6635, USA would like a Scottish penpal. She is of Scottish extraction and wants some contact with her "native" country.

I'm just starting to learn Italian, and if there is an Italian Trekker or a Trekker who is learning Italian out there who'd be willing to risk a letter, I'm up for it. Jill Clements, 34 Belvedere Rd, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4NX.

I would like some penfriends to talk Trek philosophy/life, the universe and everything. I'm a CT and TNG fan, but I am also interested in other SF (especially written - Anne McCaffrey is my favourite author but I also like 'hard' SF), writing my own stories (hope to get published), railways, social issues, psychology, natural history, computing and more. I'm 38 but I don't think age matters in Trekdom. I'd love to hear from some overseas members as other countries is

another of my interests. Jill Searle, 33C Underdale Rd, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 5DT.

PENPAL LIST - Send your ad to STalisha, 46 Broughton Rd, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 2RP, England. Please give date of birth, not age. For a copy of the list send: UK - 2 second class stamps. Rest of Europe: 2 International Reply Coupons. Rest of world: 3 International Reply Coupons (buy from post office).

List currently (June 96) has 106 listings, male/female age 11 - 53 from 26 countries worldwide, including 37 SF fans. Any queries? UK - send SAE; elsewhere, send 1 IRC: or no reply!



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which breaks copyright.

TREKKERFORMS - Individual uniforms made for fans by fans on a mail order basis or local collection/fitting basis. The range of uniforms cover TNG, DS9 and Voyager - most departments and rank up to Admiral. Prices start from £30 for a TNG top and go to £55 for dress uniforms. SAE for further info to Trekkerforms, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S65 1RZ.

FOR SALE - I have over 70 original very good condition videos to sell: TNG - a few 4th season, all of 5, most of 6 and 7 DS9 - 2.1, 2.2 (3 part season opener), 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 VOY - all of season 1 (except 1.1) Prices: £5.99 each inc p&p OR 4 for £20 inc p&p. Phone Andrew Carnegie: 01732 452586 or 0956 449076.

FOR SALE - Star Trek classic zines, general and K/S/adult; also some general science fiction multi-media magazines with Star Trek features, etc, and a few books. Please send stamped addressed envelope for list to Roberta Martin, 22 Wilmot St, Bethnal Green, London E2 0BS

FOR SALE - TNG CIC videos, all 89 tapes, only played once. £6 per tape including p&p or £5 per tape for anyone able to collect in Glasgow or Dundee. Willing to consider offers for multiple tapes. Also DS9 Special Collectors Edition - Emissary/DS9 Behind the Scenes, offers. Please enclose an SAE with offers or for list of tapes. Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

FOR SALE - Star Trek stuff - books, tapes, models, photos etc. Also some free stuff - posters, zines etc. For details write to Miss R Morris, 32 West Road, Ellesmere Port, Wirral L65 9AR.

FOR SALE - Lots of Customizable card game cards. Approx 300, £20 for lot or 20p each. Send SAE for list. Deep Space Nine Video Cassettes, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10. £6 each plus 50p for p&p for each video. ST:TNG Board Game from Season 5. No more being made. Complete, £10 + 50p p&p. D Peeroo, 26 Kentonway, Goldsworth Park, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QQ.

FOR SALE - magazines, cuttings, zines etc, all four series. SAE please to Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Land, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ

FOR SALE - Brent Spiner's Ol' Yellow Eyes is Back CD & cassette, and a range of merchandise plus a special limited edition of the CD is available from us. Please write or phone for more information and a price list to Donna & Dawn Macey, 66 Albert Rd, Worcester, WR5 1EB, England, Tel 01905 764161. Overseas requests are welcome. Please sent 2 IRCs.

FOR SALE - ST:TNG Marvel magazine Nos 1 - 24: Star TrekSkybox Masterseries II. Ronnie McGhie, 49 Bruntsfield Ave, Whitehirst Park, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6RZ

FOR SALE - Next Gen alternate universe rare cards, £2 each. Also available, various Star Trek trading cards sets and chase cards. Send wants list to Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6HY.

FOR SALE - Star Trek zines for sale (gen and K/S); cheap prices as they must go quickly. Please send SAE for list to Ann Reynolds, Upper Flat, 2 Jameson Rd, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

Zines for sale AND wanted - both "/" and genzines in the following: Classic Trek, Man from Uncle, Starsky & Hutch, Professionals, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, multimedia etc. Good range of prices. For list please send SAE to Gill Gaffikin, 128 Cygnet Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0DT

WANTED - Compact discs of David Hasslehoff. Write from *anywhere*, wherever you are. I will refund your postage. Send prices. Thanks. (It's important). Ian Colbert, 208 Douglas Rd, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6HN

WANTED - Does anyone have a Galoob Tasha Yar figure? I would pay a reasonable price for it. Also, does anyone have any Mego Star Trek: The Motion Picture figures? I would appreciate it if I could possibly be notified of Ilia, Decker or any other members of the crew with the exception of Admiral Kirk. Contact A Francis, "Silverdale", Market Road, Nantyglo, Brynmawr, Gwent NP3 4QD

WANTED - Does anyone have any records or cassette recordings in good condition only of William Shatner's The Transformed Man and Mr Spock's Music from Outer Space. Will pay any reasonable price. Contact Roberta Martin, 22 Wilmot St, Bethnal Green, London E2 0BS

WANTED - TNG Zines, especially Encounter at Farpoint, Involution or any other Picard/Crusher zines. Contact Joanne Holden, 17 Moorcroft Drive, Tong, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD4 6NJ.

WANTED - DS9 episodes, magazines, etc. Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Land,

Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ

WANTED - Desperately seeking Tantalus zines. If you have any for sale please contact me, Lindsey Shelton, at 94 Parkes St, Smethwick, Warley, W Midlands, B67 6BH

WANTED - Does anyone have any videos of SeaQuest DSV, last 4 eps of season one and any of season 2. Ronnie McGhie, 49 Bruntsfield Ave, Whitehirst Park, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6RZ

WANTED - Anything (articles, photos, videos, etc) on Gates McFadden. Will buy or trade. Donna Macey, 66 Albert Rd, Worcester WR5 1EB.

WANTED - photos from the Con Tad in L.A. from 28-29 Oct. 1995. Vera Regina Schweitzer, Hanauer Strasse 25 VIII, 80992 Munchen 50, Germany

WANTED - Sell through episodes of TV series The Professionals. Episodes required Klansmen/Close Quarter/Everest Was Also Conquered & Rogue/Blind Run. Will pay reasonable price. Elaine McCue 109 Athelstane Rd, Glasgow G13 3QY.

WANTED - the book "Meaning in Star Trek" by Karen Blair. Any reasonable price paid. Martin Stahl, Ulrich-Willer-Str. 8, D-97828 Marktheidenfeld, Germany.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the UK, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford WD2 2NA. £14.99 for 4 magazines. Tel No. 01923-818495. Fax for membership information is: 01923-225885.

People can write to Tim Gaskill direct via e-mail: elmerisdog@mail.bogo.co.uk or TGASKILL@delphi.com
Post PO BOX 6463, London, N22 4JU
Fax 0181-888-8008.

CTP Sci-fi Accessories, 1 Sandford Gardens, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1QT. Tel 01494 445562. Klingon and Romulan headpieces, costume accessories, bat'leths, weapons, badges. Send SAE for list.

MISC

COMING SOON..... The Berengaria Order of Druids. A Druid order dedicated to the aims, ideals, and whatever else of Star Trek, Babylon Five and any other sci-fi that takes our fancy. Plus, of course, lots of traditional Druidic silliness! Hoping to be registered with the Council of British Druid Orders - that's IF they'll let us. If you're interested, please contact the Archdruidess... Sarah Rooke, Flat 3, 20 St. David's Rd, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants, PO5 1QN., or Cat-keeper-in-Chief, Taruka Quauhtezcatl, "Tierra Venida", 15A Clevedon Rd, Ingol, Preston, Lancs PR2 3YL



CLUBS & GROUPS



UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 25p stamp.

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

The Transatlantic Star Trek Federation TTASTF is a fanzine trying to regroup Star Trek from all over the world, a trimestrial newsletter packed with information, reviews, penpals, etc. This is a small club and with IDIC closing down I would like a lot of you to join. I put a lot of effort in this fanzine. Honorary members include Majel Barrett-Roddenberry. The best thing is that the club is basically free; just send 2 IRCs or £1 for an issue. With the closing of IDIC in October this could be a chance to join a new generation of Star Trek fans. James Woodman, Le Relais Des Garrigues, Route de Fronton, 82170 Grissoles, France

Klingon Strike Force - One-off membership fee £2.50; quarterly newsletter £5.50 per annum. SAE for info to Admiral Vixis, 11 Raven Court, Esh Winning, Durham DH7

9JS.

Starfleet Academy - UK fan club based on S.F.A in the Star Trek universe. Regular 52 page newsletter every 8 weeks with everything from Trek fans and Actor info, also stories, you name it. Plastic Id card and a parchment paper joining up certificate, and discounts with over 10 stores and charity events. Membership £4 per half year, £8 a full year. Write to Lee Close, 101 Barton Terr., Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9LL or phone the club hotline on 01506 493625.

THE TAILORING TIMES For those who appreciate a well cut suit, and Cardassians, a bi-monthly newsletter/discussion zine. Everything you've always wanted to know about Cardassians but were afraid to ask - in case the Obsidian Order overheard you! We want information, gossip, speculation, reviews, character and episode analysis, thoughts on their society etc. The emphasis is always on our two favourite baddies - Elim Garek and Gul Dukat! Subscription for the time being is free - just send an A4 sized self addressed envelope (with 50p stamp or 3 IRCs) to: Ann Neilson, 53 Howth Terrace, Glasgow G13 1SS.

LOCAL GROUPS - Update

Please enclose an SAE when writing for details.

Airdrie - USS Renegade, PO Box 5425, Airdrie, Lanarkshire ML6 9BW, meets monthly. SAE for details.

Bournemouth - USS Excalibur Star Trek Mini-Conventions at Bournemouth University, Poole House, Wallisdown, Bournemouth. Films, activities, raffles and competitions. Charity - The MacMillan (Cancer) Unit. Entry £2.00 Excalibur members, £2.50 non members.

Cardiff - Kronos One, affiliated to Starfleet Command. Meets on the first Sunday of every month at The Model Inn (upstairs) 14/15 Quay Street, Cardiff from 5pm. We also organize live action role plays at a site near Tintern, Gwent, ever 3-4 months. SAE for further details to Stion Kronos, 40 Queen

Street, Tongwynlais, Cardiff, CF4 7NN.

Edinburgh - Starbase East Coast. Next meeting 22/09/96. We will be having a disco at our new location which is Champions Club on Annandale Street, just off Leith Walk in Edinburgh. Our programme as always runs from 10 am until 10 pm, with episodes of Voyager, Deep Space Nine, TNG and Classic as well as X-Files, Babylon 5 and other series. Enquiries - SAE to Starbase East Coast, c/o Greg Lamb, 195/2 Great Junction Street, Edinburgh EH6 5LQ.

Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Hospitality Inn 10.00am to 10.00pm, £6, (£4 under 14s).

Glasgow - The Holodeck: Star Trek plus SF media. Starfleet Academy, 101 Barton Terr., Fauldhouse, EH47 9LL or phone 01506 493625. Meets at the Stakis Glasgow City Hotel, Hill Street, Glasgow. £2.50 (under 15s £2.00).

Leeds - Leeds Starfleet, videos, occasional competitions and lots of talk. Meets at Centenary House, near the MGM cinema, on the second Sunday of each month.

Liverpool - Fek'lhr. Star Trek Science Fiction club meets every 1st Sunday of each month 1 - 6 pm. £1.50. **New Venue:** New Penny Farthing pub/club, 89 St John's Precinct (Roe St), next to Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool. For details, SAE J Panter, 51 Church St, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 2AU

London - The London Group: Bi-monthly Trek group, 10.30am-7.00pm, Britannia Inter-Continental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. Dates: 14th September, 2nd November - price £7 per meeting. SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

Northampton - Starbase Delta. Come along to our fortnightly Sunday evening meetings, which are held in a back room of the Masters Arms public house in Badby. Members aged from 13 yrs upwards are catered for, a licensed bar in the main pub is available to the older members, with soft drinks for the

kids. We screen videos of all Trek, play role playing games, have quizzes and discussions and arrange trips to conventions and exhibitions. Meeting times 7.30pm 'til around 10.30 pm, price £1. For details phone: Mike (01327) 79290 or Dave (01327) 843048.

Reading - USS Runnymede, 15 Wickham Road, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 3TE (please enclose a SSAE for details) or ring the club information line on (01734) 616477. Meetings are held monthly on Sunday at the Phoenix Plaza, Wokingham.



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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc or my email; all news, cuttings, info etc. ; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; submissions for the newsletter which have to be typed up - postbag, articles, reviews, adverts etc; TNG & D59 submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

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